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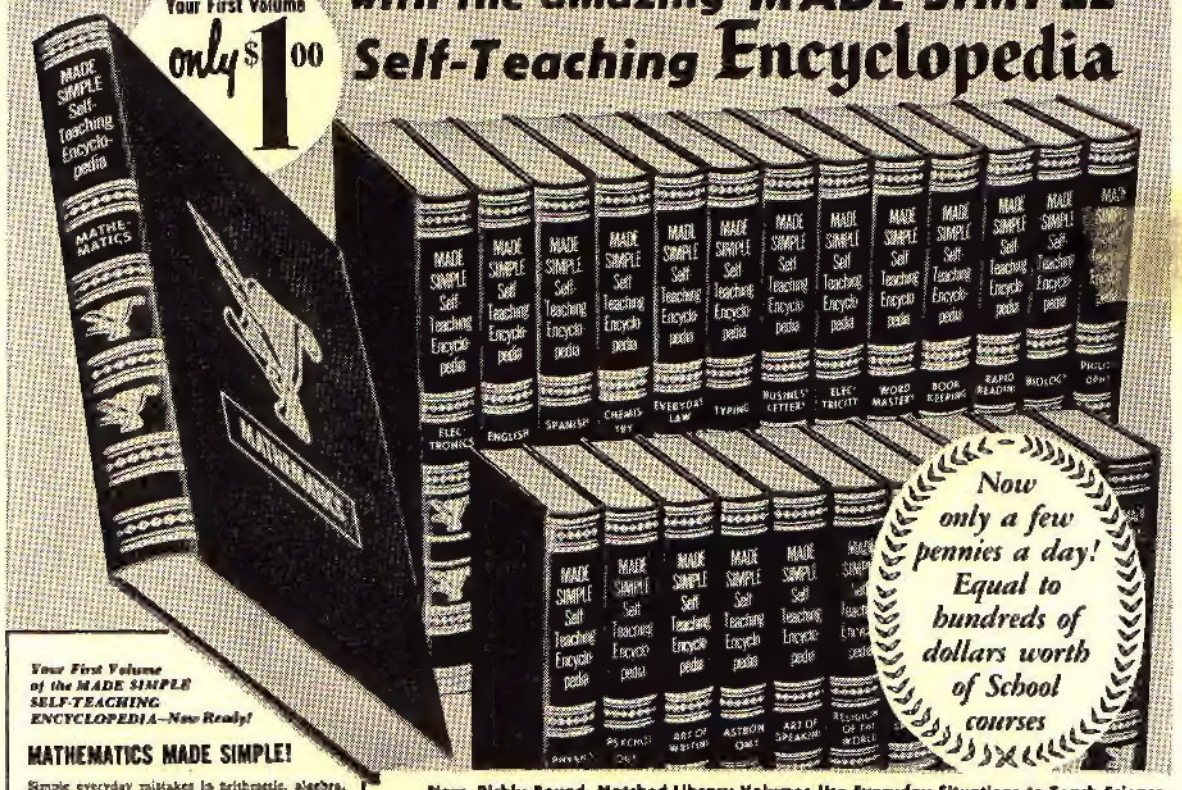

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SUPERMAN

SCIENTISTS TELL US THAT SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE DISTANT GALAXIES THERE MAY BE OTHER RACES SIMILAR TO OUR OWN, OTHER WORLDS LIKE OURS! THEN OBVIOUSLY, THERE MUST BE OTHER SUPER-BEINGS TO GUARD THESE WORLDS AGAINST EVIL AND INJUSTICE... MIGHTY MEN WHOSE SUPER-POWERS ARE A MATCH FOR EVEN OUR OWN **SUPERMAN!** WHAT IF **SUPERMAN** WERE TO PIT HIS STRENGTH AGAINST SUCH SUPER-BEINGS? WOULD THE **MAN OF STEEL** WIN IN A TRIAL OF SUPER-ABILITIES? YOU'LL DISCOVER THE STARTLING ANSWER IN——

The INTERPLANETARY OLYMPICS!

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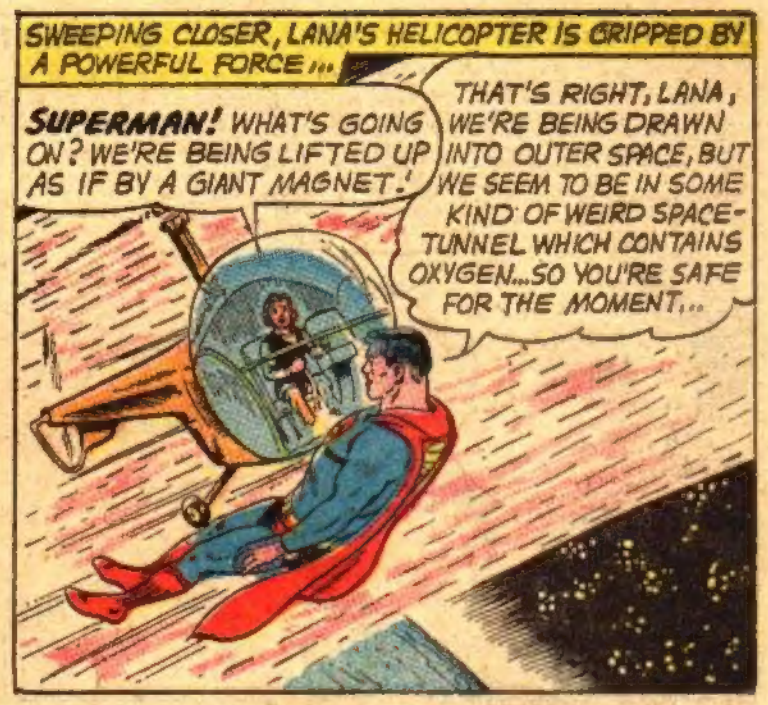
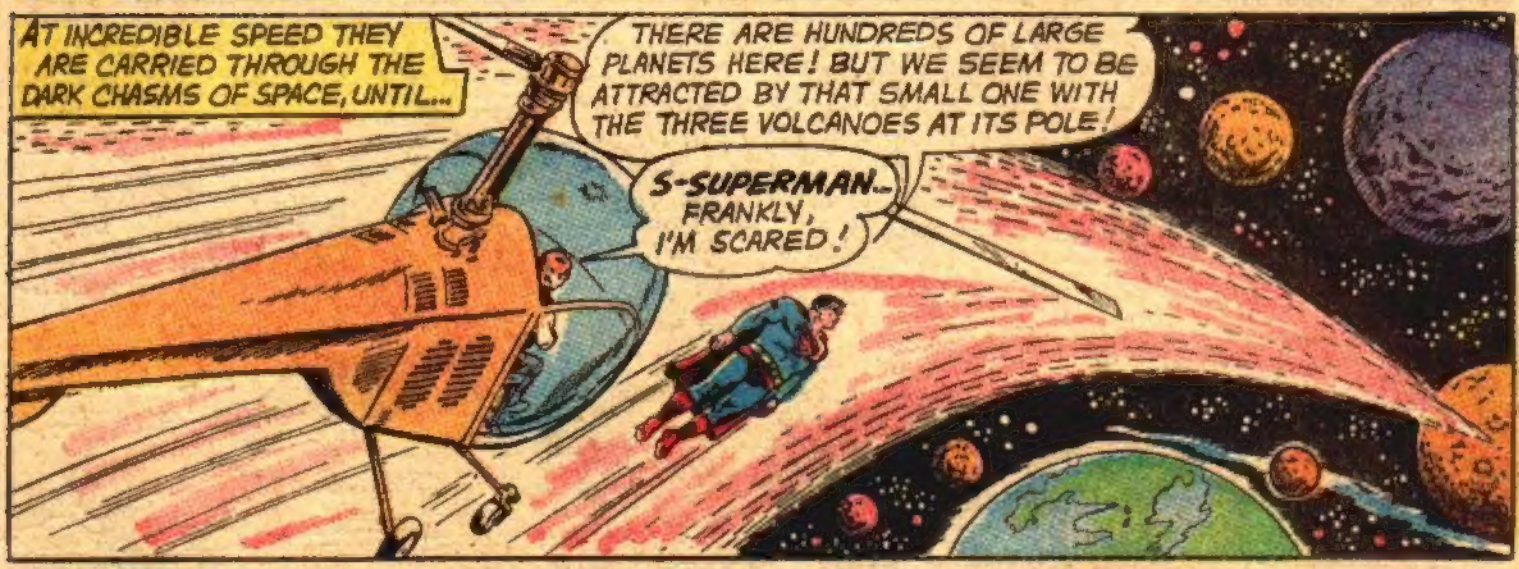
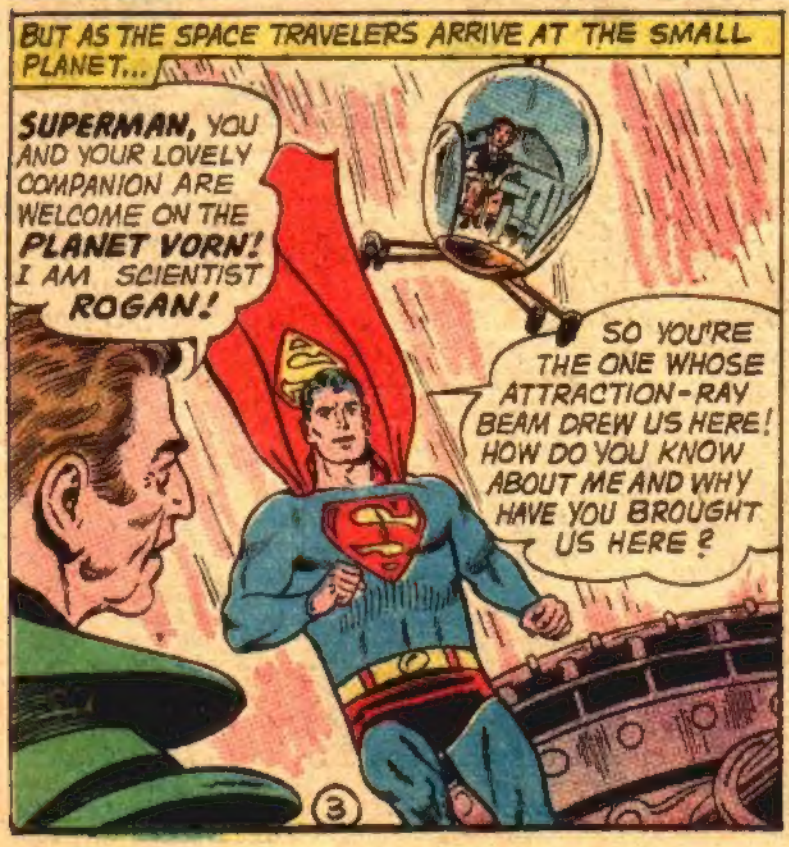
Printed in U.S.A.

ONE DAY, AS REPORTER CLARK KENT, WHO IS SECRETLY SUPERMAN, ARRIVES AT THE DAILY PLANET...
OOPS! I'M FLYING UP THESE STAIRS! AND I THOUGHT I WAS WALKING! I'D BETTER WATCH HOW I USE MY SUPER-STRENGTH! ODD, HOW LIGHT I FEEL TODAY!
SOON, AT HIS DESK...
HM! I SEE LOIS GOT A REAL SCOOP YESTERDAY!
ULP! WHAT'S HAPPENING? I'M RISING FROM MY CHAIR!
AN INSTANT LATER, LOIS ENTERS...
CLARK! LOIS MAY HAVE SEEN ME RISING FROM MY CHAIR! I'VE GOT TO COVER UP, FAST!
OH, LOIS, I CLIMBED UP HERE TO FIX THESE BLINDS AND I CAN'T GET DOWN! WOULD YOU GET A STEP-LADDER, PLEASE?
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, BUT I THOUGHT I SAW YOU FLOATING IN MID-AIR! BUT ONLY SUPERMAN COULD DO THAT!
THANKS FOR THE LADDER, LOIS!
SOME WEIRD FORCE SEEMS TO BE LIFTING ME UPWARD ALL THE TIME! BUT WHAT, AND WHY?
BAFFLED, CLARK HASTENS TO A ROOFTOP WHERE HE CHANGES INTO THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN...
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS! I'LL ALLOW THAT MYSTERIOUS FORCE TO DRAW ME WHEREVER IT WANTS TO!
2
AND IN THE NEXT STARTLING INSTANT...
GREAT KRYPTON! WHAT'S PULLING ME UP INTO SPACE, AND WHERE TO?
BE CAREFUL, SUPERMAN! YOU'RE BEING DRAWN TOWARD THE WORST DEFEATS OF YOUR CAREER!

AT THAT MOMENT, LANA LANG, TV REPORTER, APPROACHES IN HER HELICOPTER...
IT'S SUPERMAN! I WANTED TO INTERVIEW HIM ABOUT HIS LAST MISSION THROUGH THE TIME BARRIER INTO THE PAST!
SUPERMAN! WAIT!

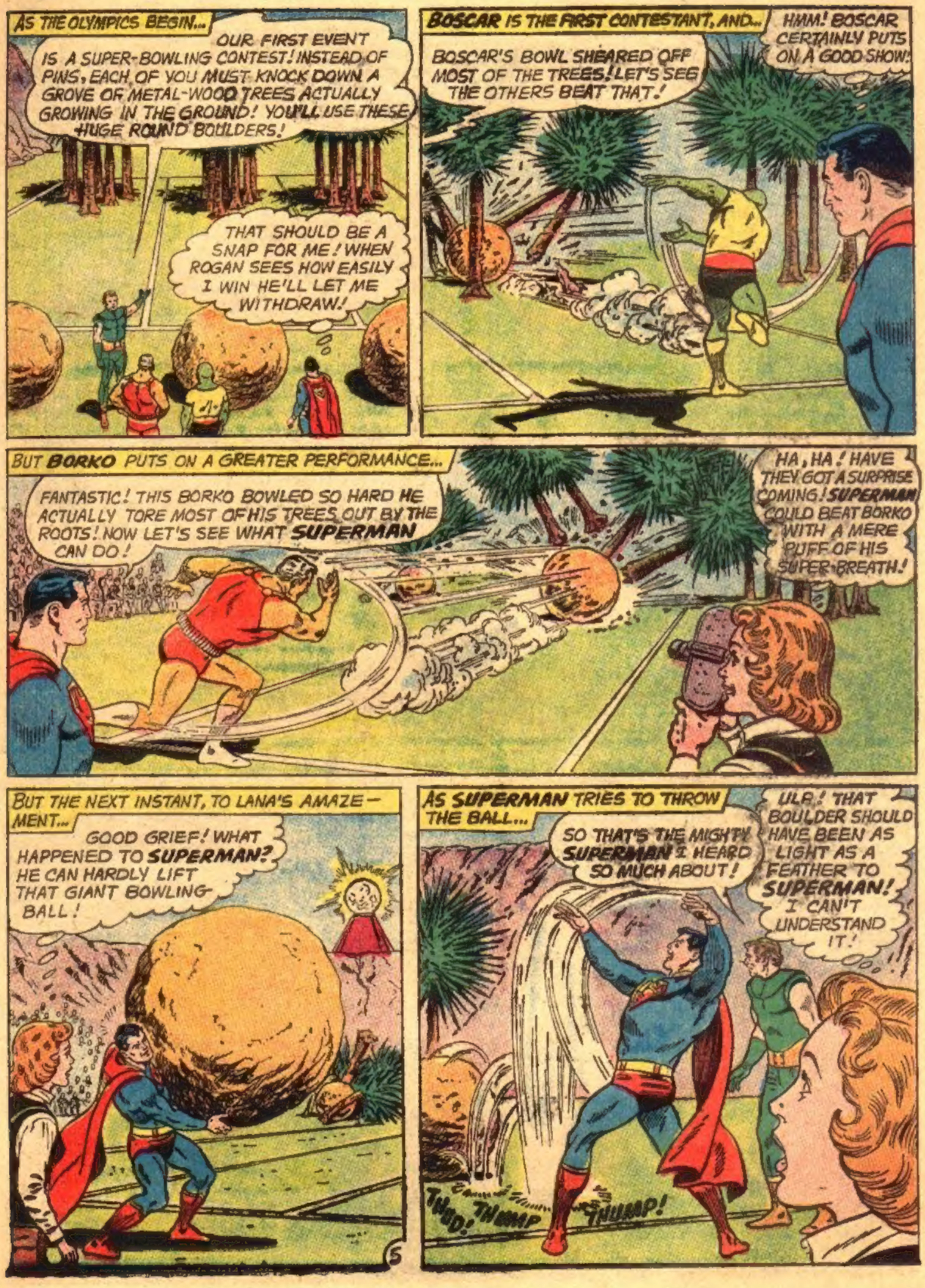

SWEEPING CLOSER, LANA'S HELICOPTER IS GRIPPED BY A POWERFUL FORCE...
SUPERMAN! WHAT'S GOING ON? WE'RE BEING LIFTED UP AS IF BY A GIANT MAGNET!
THAT'S RIGHT, LANA, WE'RE BEING DRAWN INTO OUTER SPACE, BUT WE SEEM TO BE IN SOME KIND OF WEIRD SPACE-TUNNEL WHICH CONTAINS OXYGEN...SO YOU'RE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT...

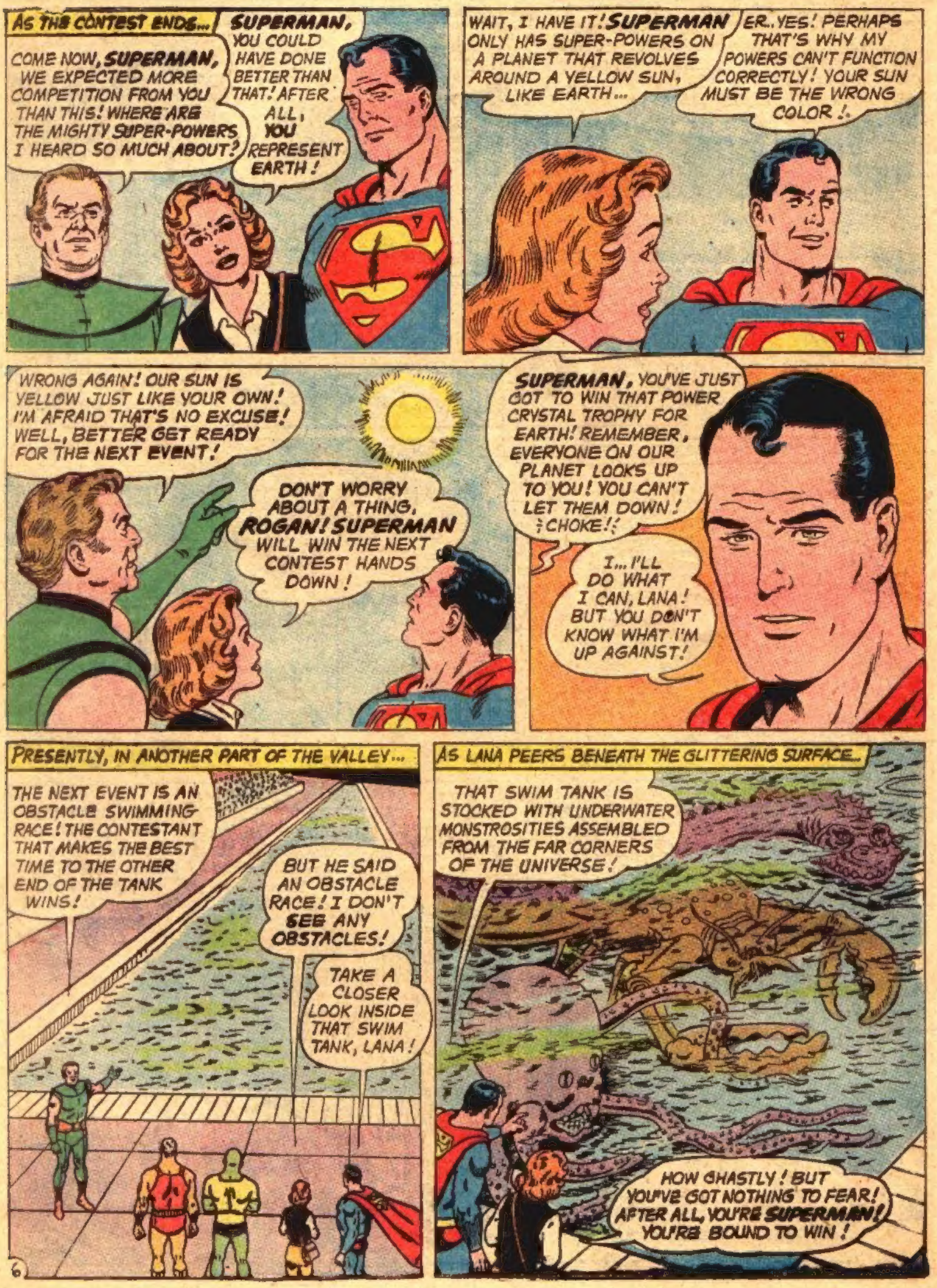

AT INCREDIBLE SPEED THEY ARE CARRIED THROUGH THE DARK CHASMS OF SPACE, UNTIL...
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF LARGE PLANETS HERE! BUT WE SEEM TO BE ATTRACTED BY THAT SMALL ONE WITH THE THREE VOLCANOES AT ITS POLE!
S-SUPERMAN... FRANKLY, I'M SCARED!

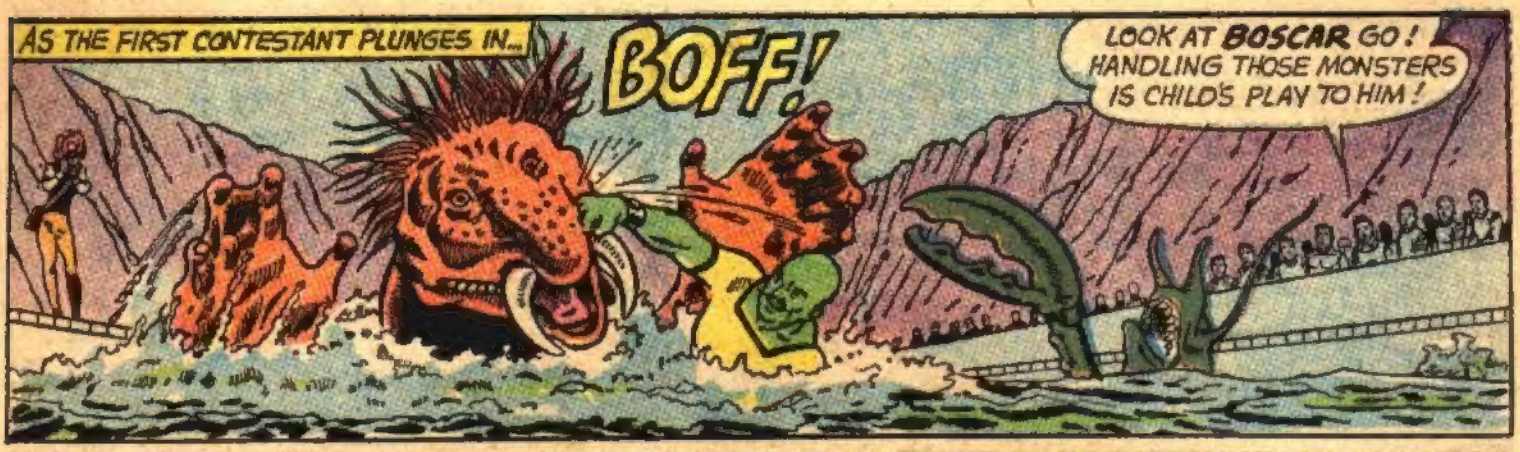

BUT AS THE SPACE TRAVELERS ARRIVE AT THE SMALL PLANET...
SUPERMAN, YOU AND YOUR LOVELY COMPANION ARE WELCOME ON THE PLANET VORN! I AM SCIENTIST ROGAN!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE ATTRACTION-RAY BEAM DREW US HERE! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME AND WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE?
3

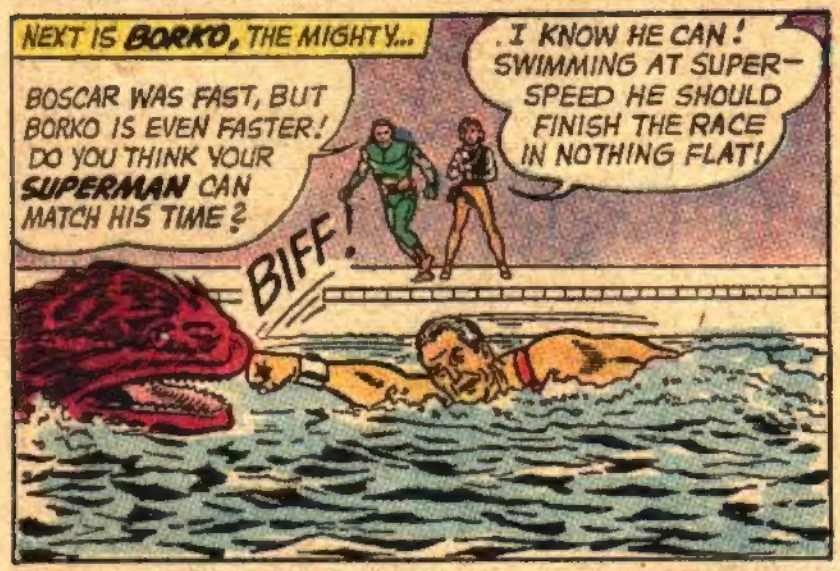
OUR MONITORS OBSERVE MANY DISTANT WORLDS! WE'VE ADMIRED YOUR STUPENDOUS FEATS! WE WANTED YOU HERE TO TAKE PART IN OUR INTER-PLANETARY SUPER-OLYMPIC GAMES!
A SUPER-OLYMPICS! WOW! THIS COULD BE THE SCOOP OF THE CENTURY!

AN INTERPLANETARY OLYMPICS? BUT WITH MY SUPER-STRENGTH IT WOULD BE UNFAIR FOR ME TO COMPETE!
SINCE ALL OF OUR CONTESTANTS COME FROM HUGE WORLDS, THEY ALL HAVE SUPER-STRENGTH ON THIS SMALL PLANET, BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCE IN GRAVITY! BUT HURRY, THE OLYMPIC PARADE WILL SOON BEGIN!
PLEASE, SUPERMAN! DON'T SPOIL THEIR PROCESSION! LOOK, THEY'VE EVEN GOT A SPECIAL FLOAT READY FOR YOU!
WELL, ALL RIGHT, LANA! I'LL JOIN THE PARADE, BUT I'LL TALK MY WAY OUT OF IT AFTERWARD!
SUPERMAN OF EARTH
AS THE "PARADE OF THE SUPER-OLYMPIC CONTESTANTS" STARTS...
LOOK AT THE MIGHTY BORKO OF THE PLANET GORN! HE'S HOLDING A STONE MODEL OF HIS PLANET IN HIS HANDS!
BORKO IS STRONG ALL RIGHT, BUT LOOK AT BOSCAR! HE CAN BREAK THE STRONGEST CHAINS BY SIMPLY EXPANDING HIS CHEST!
ROGAN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT STRENGTH IS UNTIL YOU SEE SUPERMAN IN ACTION!
BORKO OF GORN
BOSCAR OF KRAG
SUPERMAN OF EARTH
PRESENTLY, AS THE PARADE ENDS...
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR SUPER-CONTESTS IN AN ORDINARY STADIUM, SO THE SUPER-OLYMPICS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THIS HUGE, NATURAL AMPHI-THEATER!
VERY WELL! TELL ME, ROGAN, WHAT IS THAT GLITTERING JEWEL-LIKE CRYSTAL UPON THAT RIDGE?
THAT'S A POWER-CRYSTAL, SUPERMAN... THE FIRST PRIZE OF OUR SUPER-OLYMPICS! IT'S A SOURCE OF LIMITLESS ENERGY! IT GOES TO THE PLANET WHOSE CONTESTANT WINS!
I'LL WIN IT! YOU WEAKLINGS HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
HA, HA! BORKO WILL SING ANOTHER TUNE WHEN HE SEES SOME OF SUPERMAN'S FEATS!


AS THE OLYMPICS BEGIN...
OUR FIRST EVENT IS A SUPER-BOWLING CONTEST! INSTEAD OF PINS, EACH OF YOU MUST KNOCK DOWN A GROVE OF METAL-WOOD TREES ACTUALLY GROWING IN THE GROUND! YOU'LL USE THESE HUGE ROUND BOULDERS!
THAT SHOULD BE A SNAP FOR ME! WHEN ROGAN SEES HOW EASILY I WIN HE'LL LET ME WITHDRAW!
BOSCAR IS THE FIRST CONTESTANT, AND...
HMM! BOSCAR CERTAINLY PUTS ON A GOOD SHOW!
BOSCAR'S BOWL SHEARED OFF MOST OF THE TREES! LET'S SEE THE OTHERS BEAT THAT!
BUT BORKO PUTS ON A GREATER PERFORMANCE...
FANTASTIC! THIS BORKO BOWLED SO HARD HE ACTUALLY TORE MOST OF HIS TREES OUT BY THE ROOTS! NOW LET'S SEE WHAT SUPERMAN CAN DO!
HA, HA! HAVE THEY GOT A SURPRISE COMING! SUPERMAN COULD BEAT BORKO WITH A MERE PUFF OF HIS SUPER-BREATH!
BUT THE NEXT INSTANT, TO LANA'S AMAZEMENT...
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN? HE CAN HARDLY LIFT THAT GIANT BOWLING BALL!
AS SUPERMAN TRIES TO THROW THE BALL...
SO THAT'S THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN I HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT!
ULP! THAT BOULDER SHOULD HAVE BEEN AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER TO SUPERMAN! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
THUD!
THMP
THUMP!


AS THE CONTEST ENDS...
COME NOW, SUPERMAN, WE EXPECTED MORE COMPETITION FROM YOU THAN THIS! WHERE ARE THE MIGHTY SUPER-POWERS I HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?
SUPERMAN, YOU COULD HAVE DONE BETTER THAN THAT! AFTER ALL, YOU REPRESENT EARTH!
WAIT, I HAVE IT! SUPERMAN ONLY HAS SUPER-POWERS ON A PLANET THAT REVOLVES AROUND A YELLOW SUN, LIKE EARTH...
ER..YES! PERHAPS THAT'S WHY MY POWERS CAN'T FUNCTION CORRECTLY! YOUR SUN MUST BE THE WRONG COLOR!.
WRONG AGAIN! OUR SUN IS YELLOW JUST LIKE YOUR OWN! I'M AFRAID THAT'S NO EXCUSE! WELL, BETTER GET READY FOR THE NEXT EVENT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, ROGAN! SUPERMAN WILL WIN THE NEXT CONTEST HANDS DOWN!
SUPERMAN, YOU'VE JUST GOT TO WIN THAT POWER CRYSTAL TROPHY FOR EARTH! REMEMBER, EVERYONE ON OUR PLANET LOOKS UP TO YOU! YOU CAN'T LET THEM DOWN! CHOKE!
I... I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, LANA! BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST!
PRESENTLY, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VALLEY...
THE NEXT EVENT IS AN OBSTACLE SWIMMING RACE! THE CONTESTANT THAT MAKES THE BEST TIME TO THE OTHER END OF THE TANK WINS!
BUT HE SAID AN OBSTACLE RACE! I DON'T SEE ANY OBSTACLES!
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK INSIDE THAT SWIM TANK, LANA!
AS LANA PEERS BENEATH THE GLITTERING SURFACE...
THAT SWIM TANK IS STOCKED WITH UNDERWATER MONSTROSITIES ASSEMBLED FROM THE FAR CORNERS OF THE UNIVERSE!
HOW GHASTLY! BUT YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE SUPERMAN! YOU'RE BOUND TO WIN!


AS THE FIRST CONTESTANT PLUNGES IN...
BOFF!
LOOK AT BOSCAR GO! HANDLING THOSE MONSTERS IS CHILD'S PLAY TO HIM!


NEXT IS BORKO, THE MIGHTY...
BOSCAR WAS FAST, BUT BORKO IS EVEN FASTER! DO YOU THINK YOUR SUPERMAN CAN MATCH HIS TIME?
I KNOW HE CAN! SWIMMING AT SUPER-SPEED HE SHOULD FINISH THE RACE IN NOTHING FLAT!
BIFF!

AS SUPERMAN DIVES IN...
I'LL DO MY BEST, LANA! I HOPE IT'S GOOD ENOUGH!
ATTA BOY, SUPERMAN! GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY! EVERYONE ON EARTH WOULD BE CHEERING FOR YOU IF THEY COULD SEE YOU NOW!

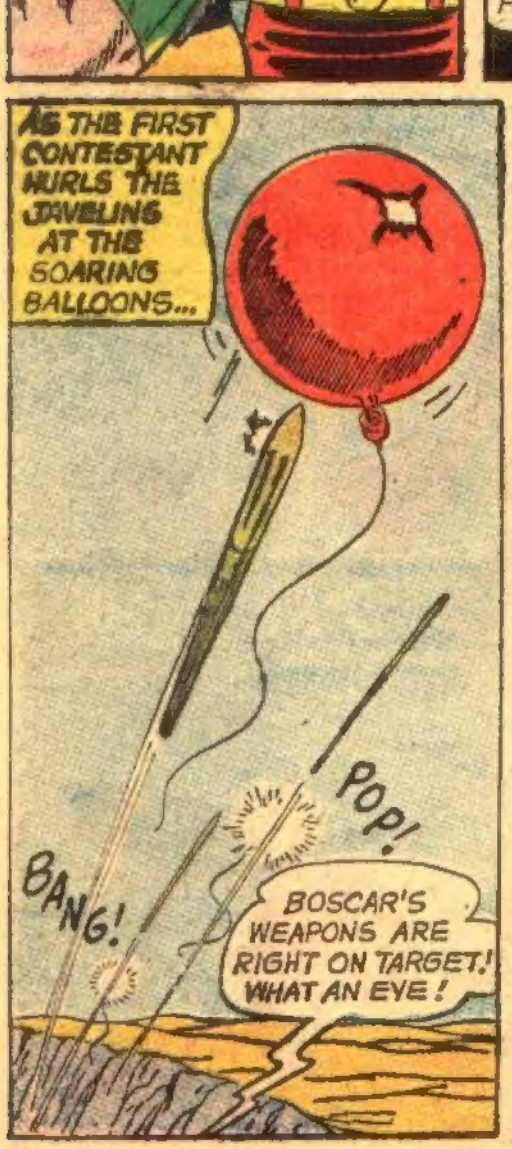
BUT FROM THE MOMENT HE HITS THE WATER SUPERMAN IS IN TROUBLE...
SUPERMAN! WATCH OUT FOR THAT GIANT CLAM! USE YOUR SUPER-SPEED! GROAN! OH, NO! THAT CREATURE'S GOT HIM!

SUPER-SPEED AND SUPER-STRENGTH SEEM TO HAVE VANISHED AS EARTH'S HERO FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE FINISH LINE...
BORKO WINS AGAIN! SUPERMAN, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! YOU'RE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM, YET HERE ON OUR PLANET, YOU'RE A FLOP!
SUPERMAN, IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO? YOU'RE LETTING EARTH DOWN!
LANA! GULP! BELIEVE ME, I CAN'T HELP IT! I'M DOING WHAT I CAN!

SUPERMAN, FRANKLY I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THESE SUPER-OLYMPICS AT ALL. MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO QUIT!
SUPERMAN A QUITTER? NEVER! HE'S THE GREATEST ATHLETE IN EARTH'S HISTORY. THERE MUST BE A REASON FOR HIS FAILURE!

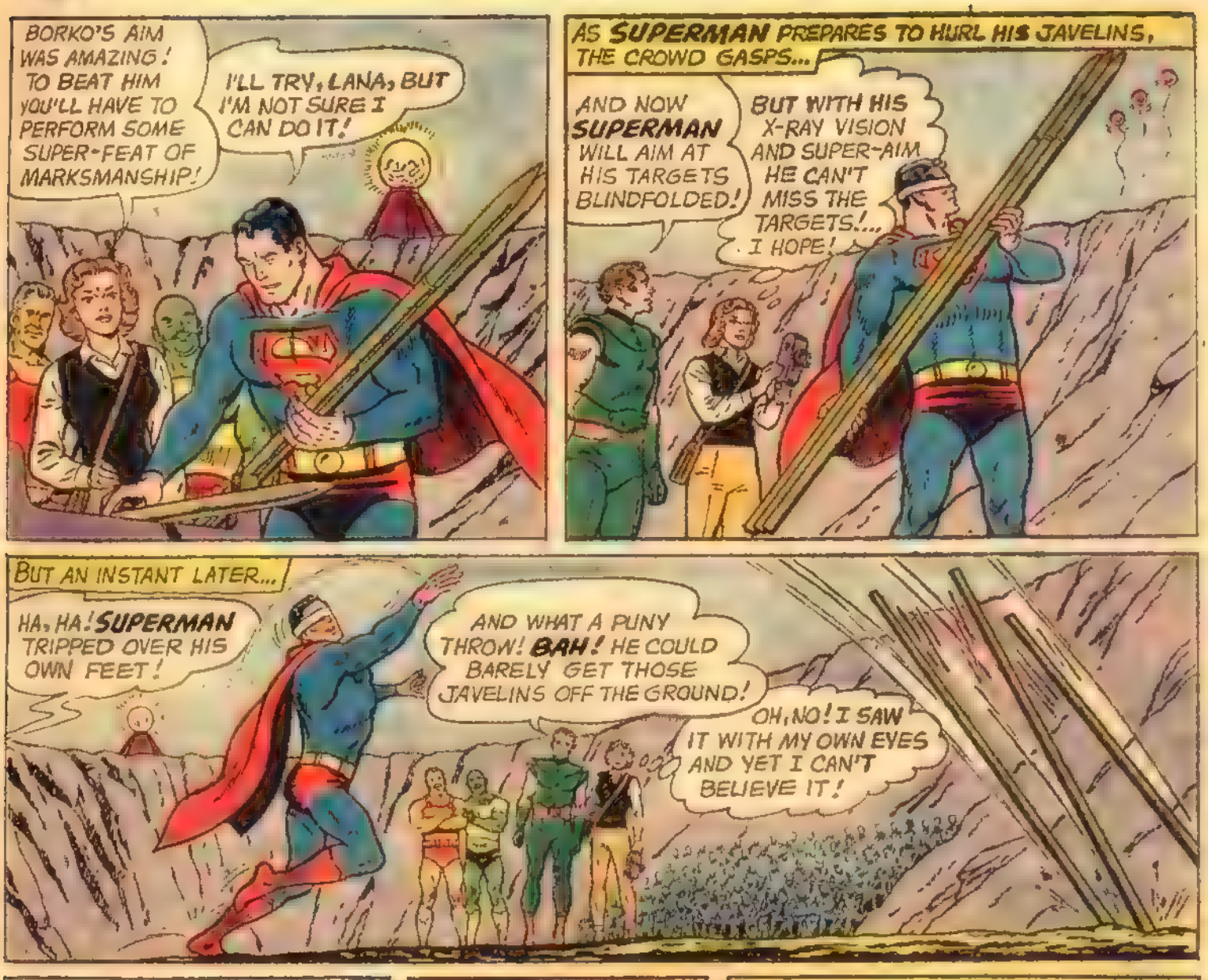
WAIT! I HAVE IT! SEVERAL FORMS OF KRYPTONITE ALWAYS AFFECT SUPERMAN'S POWERS! THERE MAY BE SOME VARIETY OF KRYPTONITE HERE ON THIS PLANET!
IMPOSSIBLE! KRYPTONITE IS THE ONE ELEMENT WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN FOUND ON OUR PLANET!

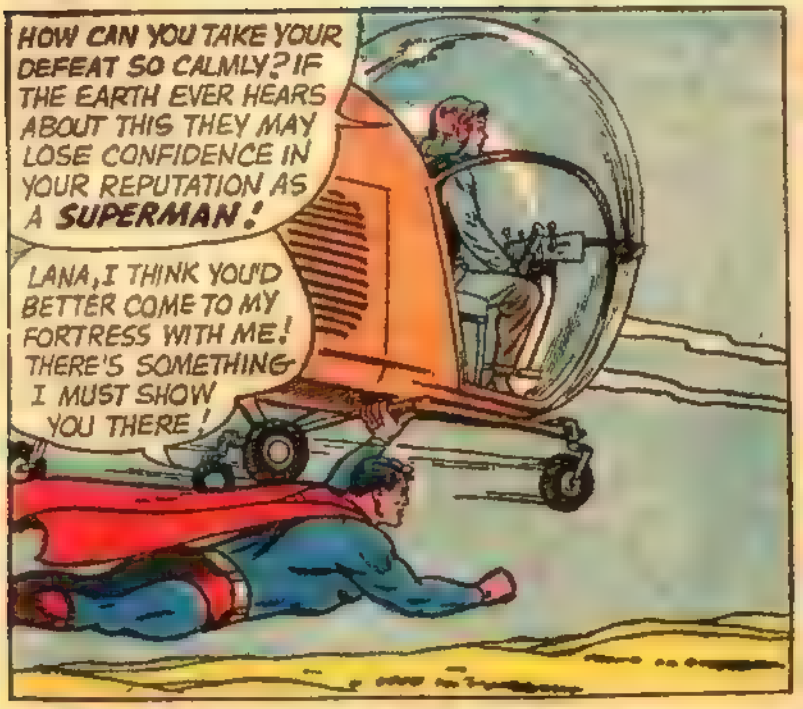
SUPERMAN, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED FOR YOUR POOR SHOWING! THIS NEXT EVENT IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! EACH CONTESTANT WILL HURL THREE JAVELINS AT THOSE BALLOONS AS THEY RISE!
HE'LL WIN THE SUPER-JAVELIN THROW! I KNOW IT! HIS SUPER-AIM NEVER FAILS!

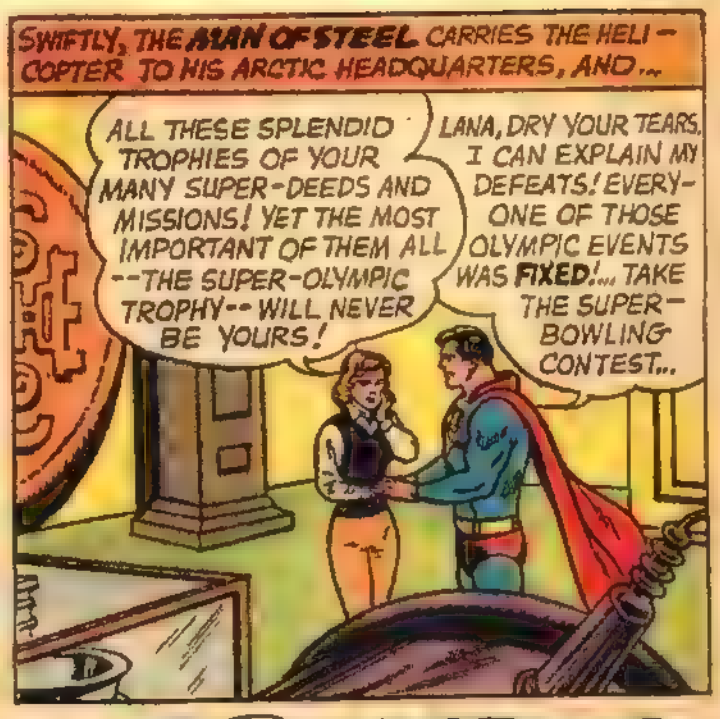

AS THE FIRST CONTESTANT HURLS THE JAVELINS AT THE SOARING BALLOONS...
POP!
BANG!
BOSCAR'S WEAPONS ARE RIGHT ON TARGET! WHAT AN EYE!

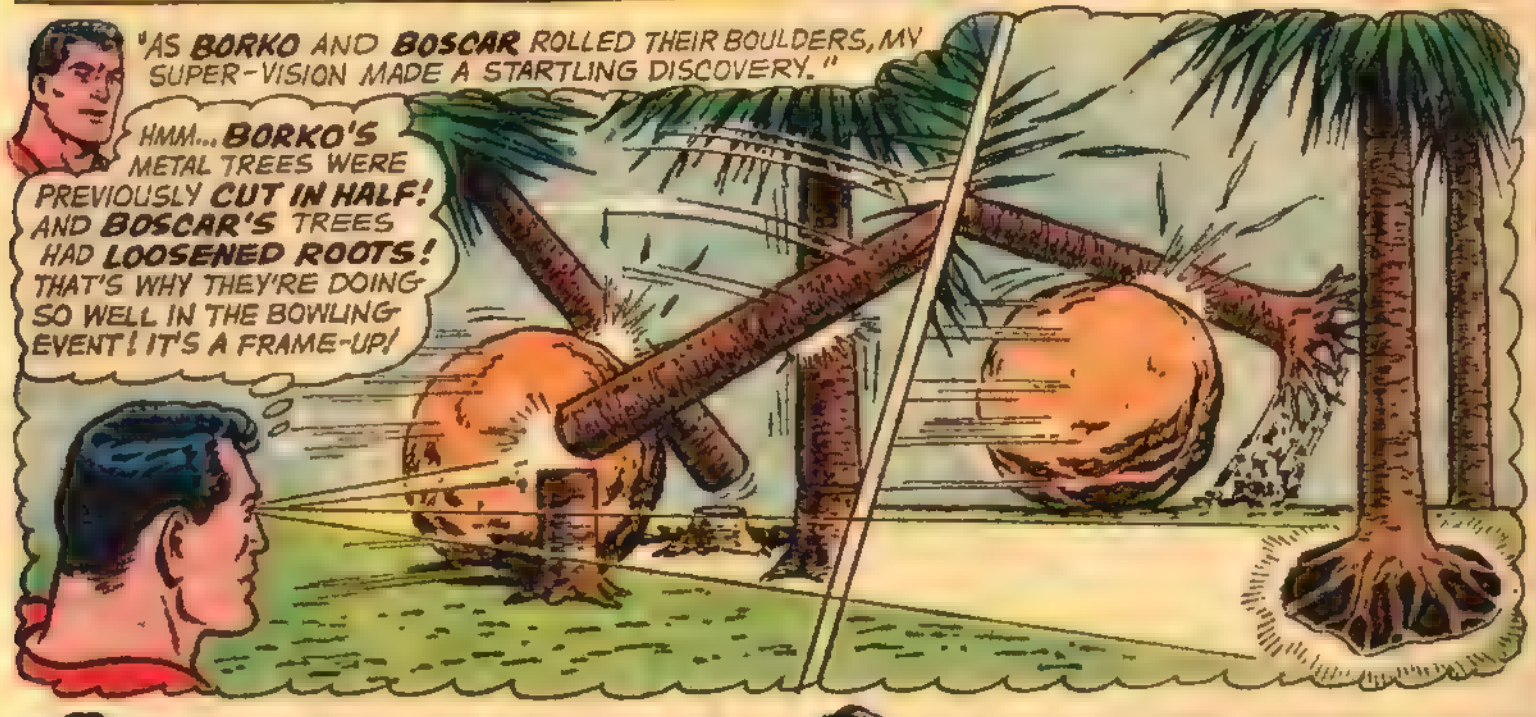
IT'S BORKO'S TURN!
GASP! WHAT SELF-CONFIDENCE! HE'S HURLING HIS JAVELINS ALL AT THE SAME TIME! HE CAN'T POSSIBLY HIT THOSE BALLOONS!

BUT TO LANA'S AMAZEMENT...
POUFF!
BANG!
POP!
HE DID IT! BORKO WAS RIGHT ON TARGET!

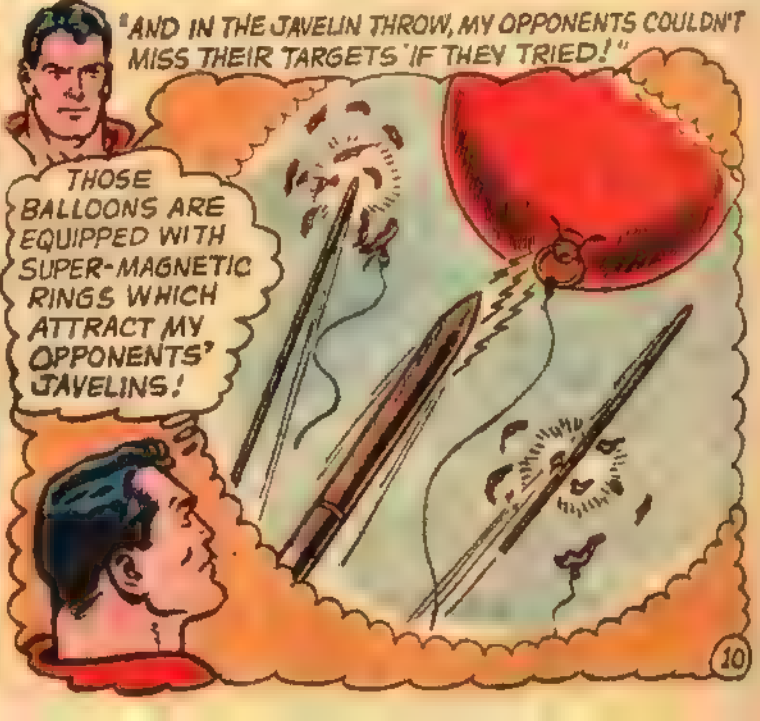

BORKO'S AIM WAS AMAZING! TO BEAT HIM YOU'LL HAVE TO PERFORM SOME SUPER-FEAT OF MARKSMANSHIP!
I'LL TRY, LANA, BUT I'M NOT SURE I CAN DO IT!
AS SUPERMAN PREPARES TO HURL HIS JAVELINS, THE CROWD GASPS...
AND NOW SUPERMAN WILL AIM AT HIS TARGETS BLINDFOLDED!
BUT WITH HIS X-RAY VISION AND SUPER-AIM HE CAN'T MISS THE TARGETS!... I HOPE!
BUT AN INSTANT LATER...
HA, HA! SUPERMAN TRIPPED OVER HIS OWN FEET!
AND WHAT A PUNY THROW! BAH! HE COULD BARELY GET THOSE JAVELINS OFF THE GROUND!
OH, NO! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES AND YET I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
PLEASE, YOU MUST GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS! HE'LL BE DISGRACED BACK ON EARTH!
I'M SORRY, BUT HE'S DISQUALIFIED! YOU'LL BOTH HAVE TO RETURN TO EARTH!
I'VE HAD MY LAST CHANCE, LANA! I WAS BEATEN, AND THAT'S THAT! LET'S GO!
AS SUPERMAN LEAVES, THE CROWD JEERS...
BOOO! SUPERMAN IS A PHONEY! HA-HA! THEY SHOULD CALL HIM SUPER-FAKER!
CHOKE! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN BEING BOOED AND JEERED!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT, LANA!
PRESENTLY, AS THE ATTRACTION-RAY IS REVERSED, SUPERMAN AND LANA ARE RETURNED TO EARTH...
I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO TELL ANYONE ON EARTH... WHAT HAPPENED AT THE INTERPLANETARY OLYMPICS! I'LL SEAL MY LIPS! NO ONE WILL KNOW OF YOUR DISGRACE!
I'M SORRY I MADE SUCH A POOR SHOWING, LANA, BUT I DID THE ONLY THING I COULD!

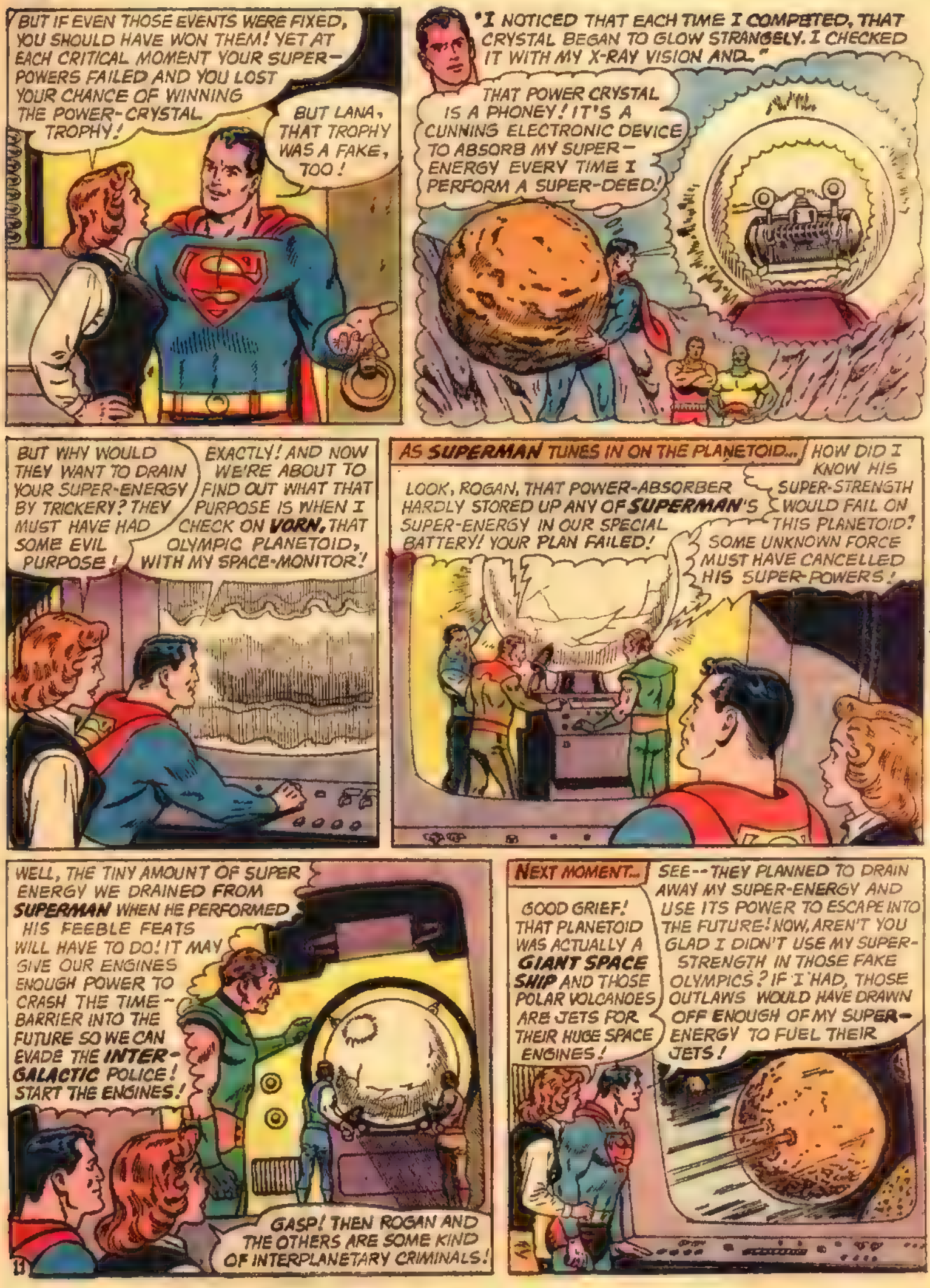

HOW CAN YOU TAKE YOUR DEFEAT SO CALMLY? IF THE EARTH EVER HEARS ABOUT THIS THEY MAY LOSE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR REPUTATION AS A SUPERMAN!
LANA, I THINK YOU'D BETTER COME TO MY FORTRESS WITH ME! THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST SHOW YOU THERE!

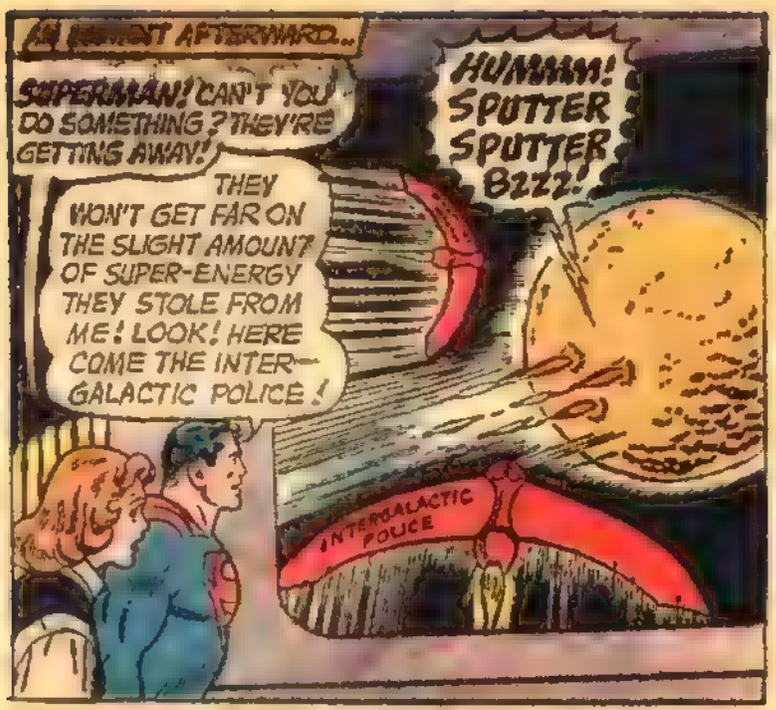

SWIFTLY, THE MAN OF STEEL CARRIES THE HELI-COPTER TO HIS ARCTIC HEADQUARTERS, AND...
ALL THESE SPLENDID TROPHIES OF YOUR MANY SUPER-DEEDS AND MISSIONS! YET THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THEM ALL --THE SUPER-OLYMPIC TROPHY-- WILL NEVER BE YOURS!
LANA, DRY YOUR TEARS. I CAN EXPLAIN MY DEFEATS! EVERY-ONE OF THOSE OLYMPIC EVENTS WAS FIXED!... TAKE THE SUPER-BOWLING CONTEST...

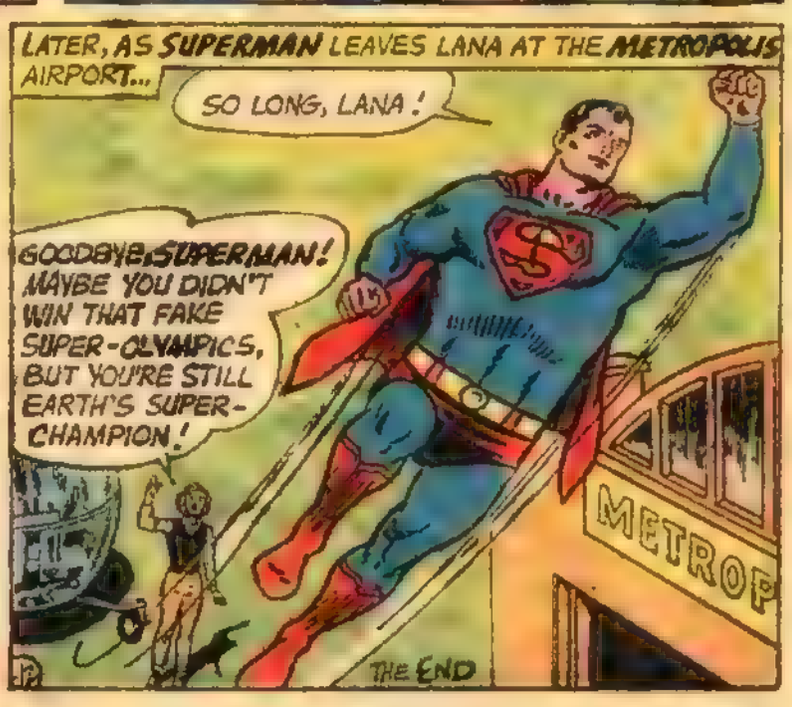

"AS BORKO AND BOSCAR ROLLED THEIR BOULDERS, MY SUPER-VISION MADE A STARTLING DISCOVERY."
HMM... BORKO'S METAL TREES WERE PREVIOUSLY CUT IN HALF! AND BOSCAR'S TREES HAD LOOSENED ROOTS! THAT'S WHY THEY'RE DOING SO WELL IN THE BOWLING EVENT! IT'S A FRAME-UP!

"NEXT CAME THE OBSTACLE SWIMMING EVENT. ONCE MORE I CHECKED WITH MY SUPER-VISION, AND..."
NO WONDER BORKO AND BOSCAR ARE DEFEATING THOSE MONSTERS! THEY'RE BOTH WEARING WRIST-BANDS EQUIPPED WITH SOME KIND OF STUN-RAY WHICH TEMPORARILY PARALYZES THE CREATURE THEY STRIKE!


"AND IN THE JAVELIN THROW, MY OPPONENTS COULDN'T MISS THEIR TARGETS IF THEY TRIED!"
THOSE BALLOONS ARE EQUIPPED WITH SUPER-MAGNETIC RINGS WHICH ATTRACT MY OPPONENTS' JAVELINS!


BUT IF EVEN THOSE EVENTS WERE FIXED, YOU SHOULD HAVE WON THEM! YET AT EACH CRITICAL MOMENT YOUR SUPER-POWERS FAILED AND YOU LOST YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING THE POWER-CRYSTAL TROPHY!
BUT LANA, THAT TROPHY WAS A FAKE, TOO!
"I NOTICED THAT EACH TIME I COMPETED, THAT CRYSTAL BEGAN TO GLOW STRANGELY. I CHECKED IT WITH MY X-RAY VISION AND—"
THAT POWER CRYSTAL IS A PHONEY! IT'S A CUNNING ELECTRONIC DEVICE TO ABSORB MY SUPER-ENERGY EVERY TIME I PERFORM A SUPER-DEED!
BUT WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO DRAIN YOUR SUPER-ENERGY BY TRICKERY? THEY MUST HAVE HAD SOME EVIL PURPOSE!
EXACTLY! AND NOW WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT PURPOSE IS WHEN I CHECK ON VORN, THAT OLYMPIC PLANETOID, WITH MY SPACE-MONITOR!
AS SUPERMAN TUNES IN ON THE PLANETOID...
LOOK, ROGAN, THAT POWER-ABSORBER HARDLY STORED UP ANY OF SUPERMAN'S SUPER-ENERGY IN OUR SPECIAL BATTERY! YOUR PLAN FAILED!
HOW DID I KNOW HIS SUPER-STRENGTH WOULD FAIL ON THIS PLANETOID? SOME UNKNOWN FORCE MUST HAVE CANCELLED HIS SUPER-POWERS!
WELL, THE TINY AMOUNT OF SUPER ENERGY WE DRAINED FROM SUPERMAN WHEN HE PERFORMED HIS FEEBLE FEATS WILL HAVE TO DO! IT MAY GIVE OUR ENGINES ENOUGH POWER TO CRASH THE TIME-BARRIER INTO THE FUTURE SO WE CAN EVADE THE INTER-GALACTIC POLICE! START THE ENGINES!
GASP! THEN ROGAN AND THE OTHERS ARE SOME KIND OF INTERPLANETARY CRIMINALS!
NEXT MOMENT...
GOOD GRIEF! THAT PLANETOID WAS ACTUALLY A GIANT SPACE SHIP AND THOSE POLAR VOLCANOES ARE JETS FOR THEIR HUGE SPACE ENGINES!
SEE--THEY PLANNED TO DRAIN AWAY MY SUPER-ENERGY AND USE ITS POWER TO ESCAPE INTO THE FUTURE! NOW, AREN'T YOU GLAD I DIDN'T USE MY SUPER-STRENGTH IN THOSE FAKE OLYMPICS? IF I HAD, THOSE OUTLAWS WOULD HAVE DRAWN OFF ENOUGH OF MY SUPER-ENERGY TO FUEL THEIR JETS!





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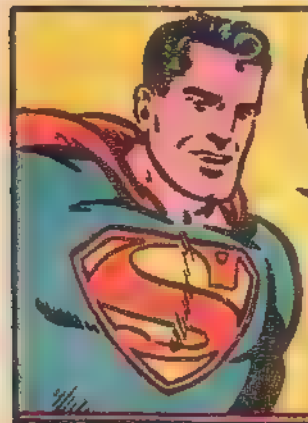

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Metropolis Mailbag

Dear Editor: In ACTION COMICS No. 300, in the story, "The Return of Super-Horse", you depict Circe, the sorceress, as a tender, loving, sweet person. But in another of your stories, published several months ago, you show Circe as a jealous, spiteful person. How do you explain this switch in character?

Paul Diamond, Beverly Hills, Calif.

(Circe is sweet and charming when she gets her way. However, when she can't get what she wants, she is a veritable vixen. As Shakespeare put it: "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."—Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor: Your recent story, "Captive of the Red Sun", was superb. But I think it contained one error. On Page 2, Panel 6, Superman says: "I've never gone so far—a million years in the future. But in ADVENTURE No. 304, in the story, "The Fantastic Spy", Superboy took the super-villain, Meglaro, 100,000,000 years into the future. In other words, you've made a goof of 99 million years!

James Ward, Johnstown, Pa.

(Don't pat yourself on the back for having found a goof until you re-read the story. On Page 7, Panel 3, you'll see that the assignment was to send the villain 100 million years into the future via a time machine. And that's just what SUPERBOY did—he sent Meglaro into the far, far future in a one-way time machine.—Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor: Next to your RED KRYPTONITE stories, the ones I like the best are those which involve the Phantom Zone. Any more of these in the offing?

Beatrice Langley, Astoria, N. Y.

(The October issue of SUPERMAN will feature a story, "The Fugitive From the Phantom Zone" which has a number of original touches.—Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor: I think I spotted an error in the June issue of ACTION. On the cover, the district attorney is shown holding up Clark Kent's clothes and glasses. But if you'll examine them closely, you'll notice that one lens is cracked. I thought that Clark's glasses were unbreakable. Did you flub?

Denise Cantin, Centerline, Mich.

(These glasses had been substituted by Clark for the real pair. Inasmuch as the glasses Clark wears to disguise himself are not prescription glasses, he is always super-careful not to let them fall into anyone's hands, lest their suspicions get aroused. —Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor: Is SUPERGIRL a member of the Legion of Super-Heroes? If she's not, she certainly should be.

Alice O'Shawn, Montreal, Canada

(Yes . . . the Girl of Steel is a full-fledged member of the Legion. And her two super-pets, STREAKY and SUPER-HORSE, are both members of the Legion of Super-Pets. If you want to see them all together in one story, get ADVENTURE No. 313.—Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor: I enjoy all your stories, particularly those in which you make use of the "LL" theme. Has it ever occurred to you that there are LL's in the names HoLLywood, Niagara FaLLs and Death VaLLey?

Bruce Camden, Englewood, N. J.

(ExceLLent observation; we'LL pass it on to our writers.—Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor: Can you tell me why Superman worries so about crooks discovering his secret identity? If they learned his secret, it wouldn't end his career. He could simply assume another identity. Right?

John Romney, Miami, Fla.

(You over-simplify the problem. However, so many readers have been asking this same question, that we have prepared a special story, "Why Superman Needs A Secret Identity", which explains all. It will appear in the next issue.—Ed.)

SUPERMEN OF AMERICA

SUPERMAN'S SECRET MESSAGE

(Code Jupiter No. 4)

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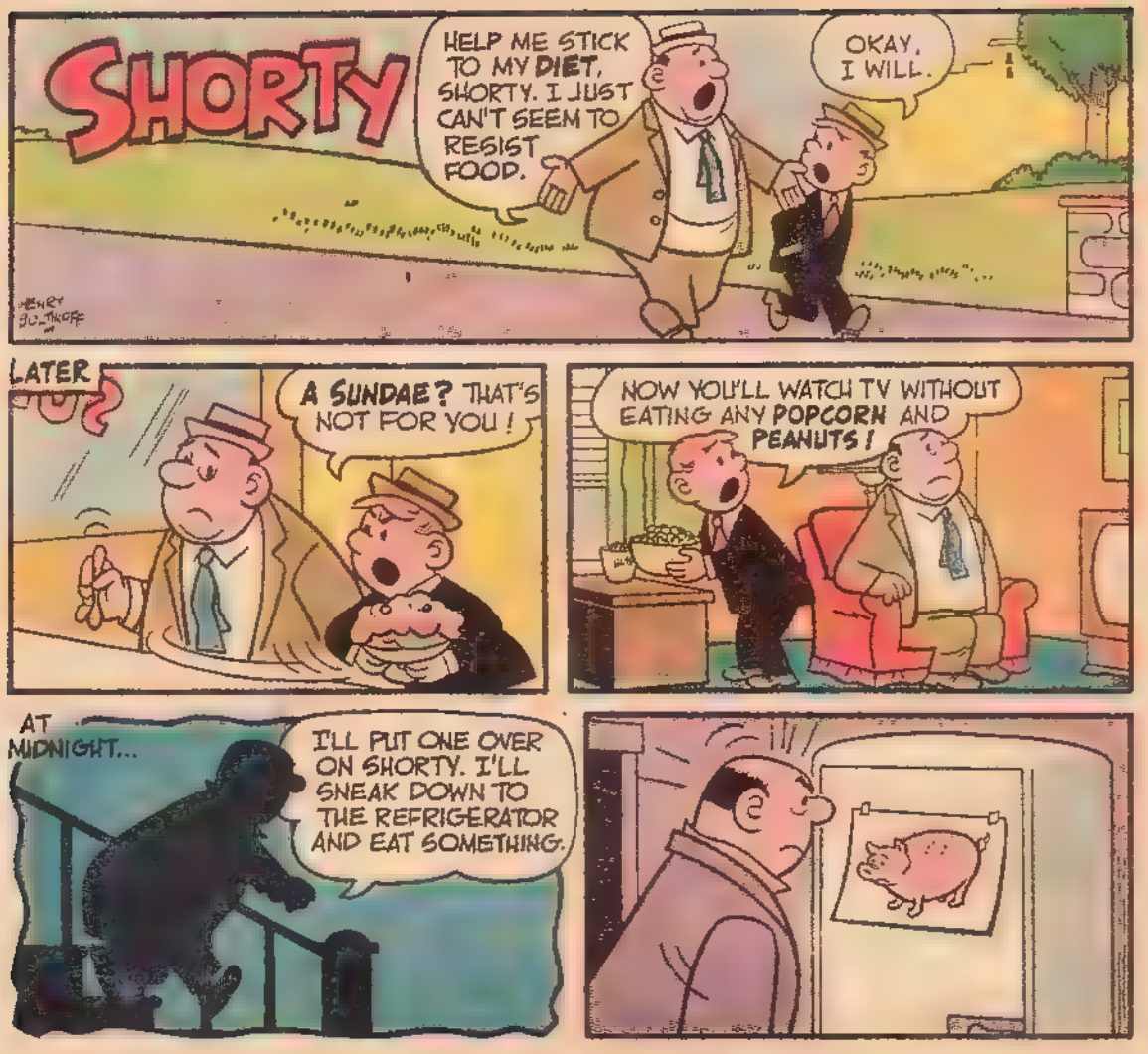

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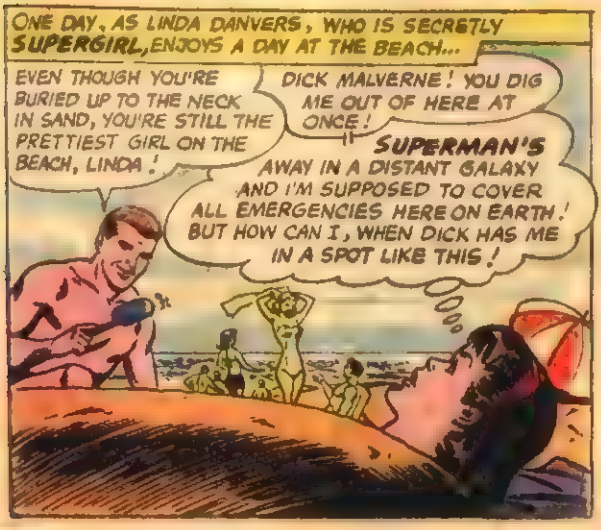
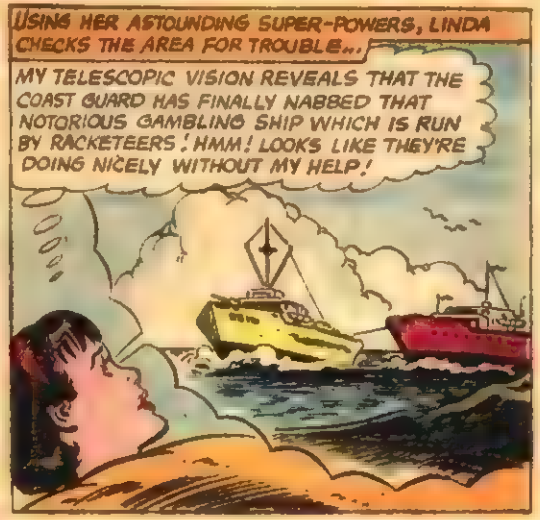
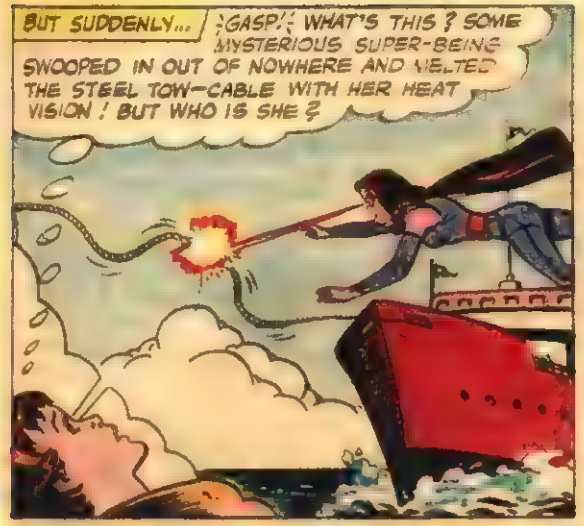
SUPERGIRL

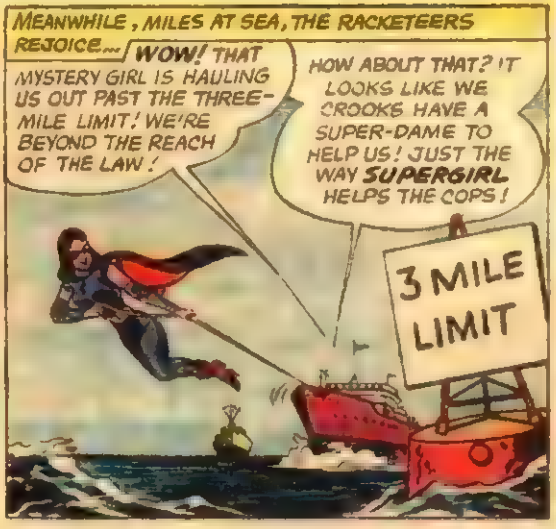
WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS NEW ADVERSARY, WHO HAS SUPERGIRL AT HER MERCY? SHE IS BLACK FLAME, A VILLAINESS WHO IS MORE CUNNING THAN LESLA-LAR, MORE EVIL THAN LUTHOR! YES, SUPERGIRL FACES THE CHALLENGE OF HER CAREER WHEN SHE MEETS--

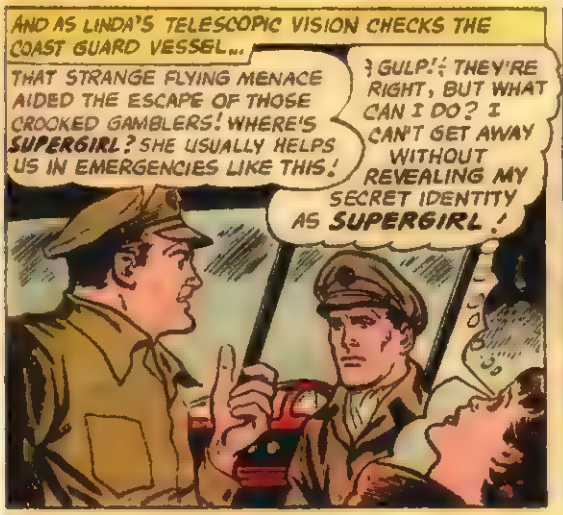
The MAID of MENACE!

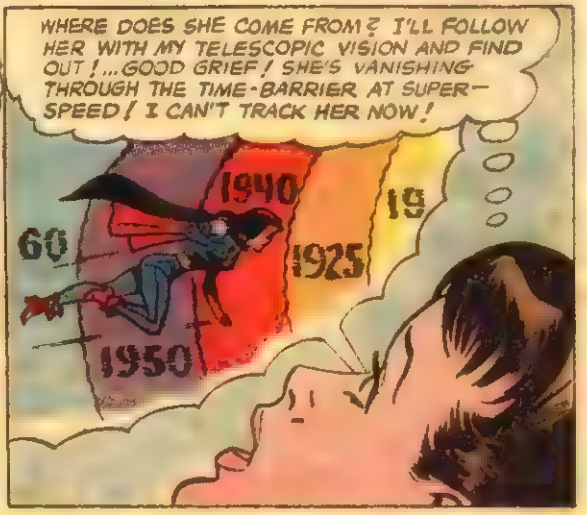


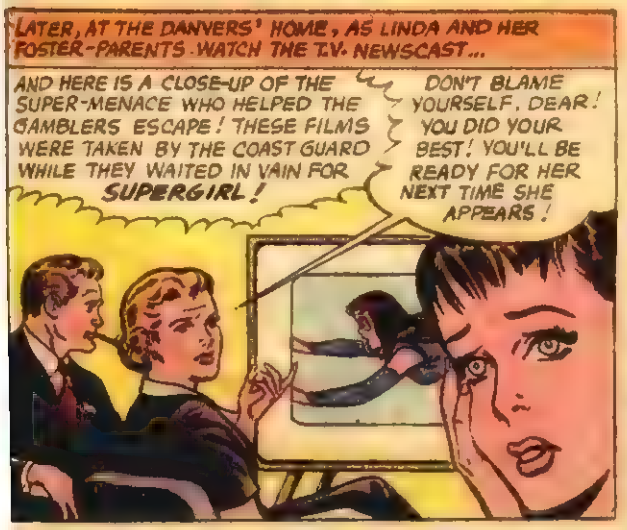


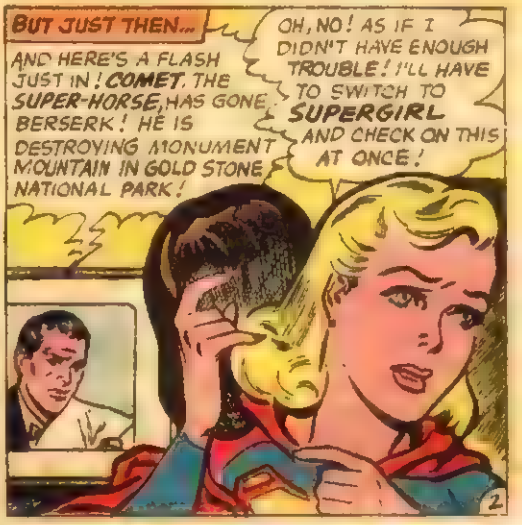

BUT SUDDENLY...
GASP! WHAT'S THIS? SOME MYSTERIOUS SUPER-BEING SWOOPED IN OUT OF NOWHERE AND MELTED THE STEEL TOW-CABLE WITH HER HEAT VISION! BUT WHO IS SHE?

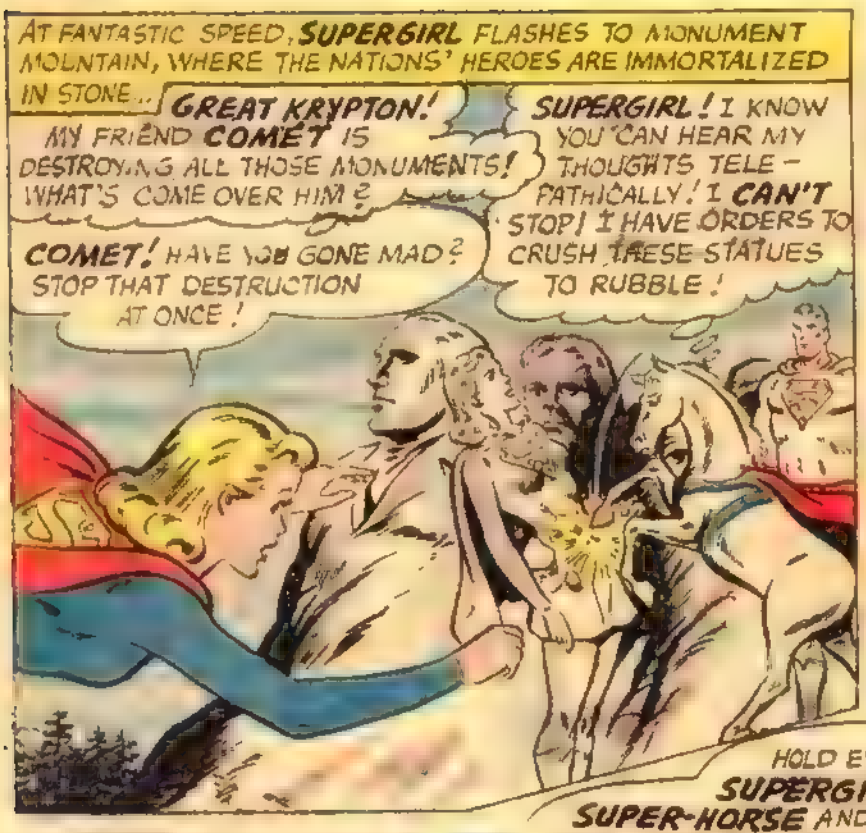

MEANWHILE, MILES AT SEA, THE RACKETEERS REJOICE...
WOW! THAT MYSTERY GIRL IS HAULING US OUT PAST THE THREE-MILE LIMIT! WE'RE BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW!
HOW ABOUT THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE WE CROOKS HAVE A SUPER-DAME TO HELP US! JUST THE WAY SUPERGIRL HELPS THE COPS!
3 MILE LIMIT

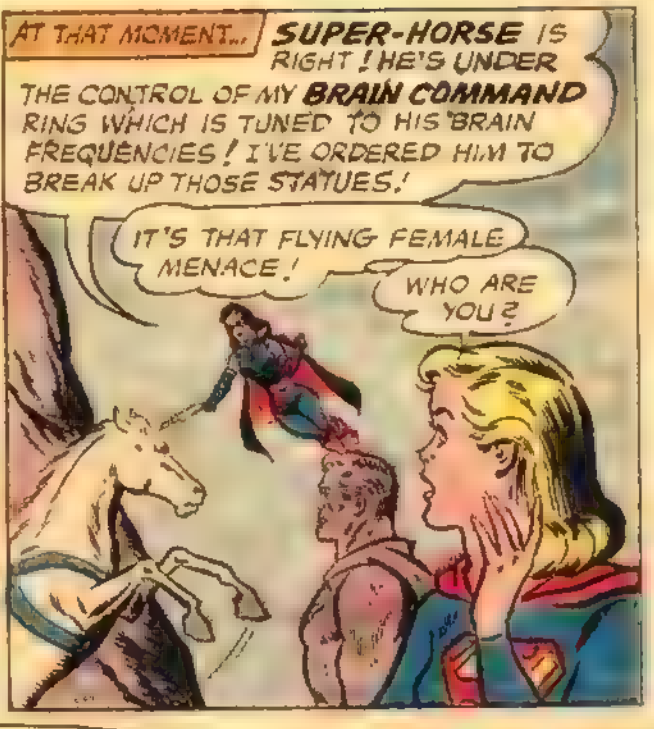

AND AS LINDA'S TELESCOPIC VISION CHECKS THE COAST GUARD VESSEL...
THAT STRANGE FLYING MENACE AIDED THE ESCAPE OF THOSE CROOKED GAMBLERS! WHERE'S SUPERGIRL? SHE USUALLY HELPS US IN EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS!
GULP! THEY'RE RIGHT, BUT WHAT CAN I DO? I CAN'T GET AWAY WITHOUT REVEALING MY SECRET IDENTITY AS SUPERGIRL!

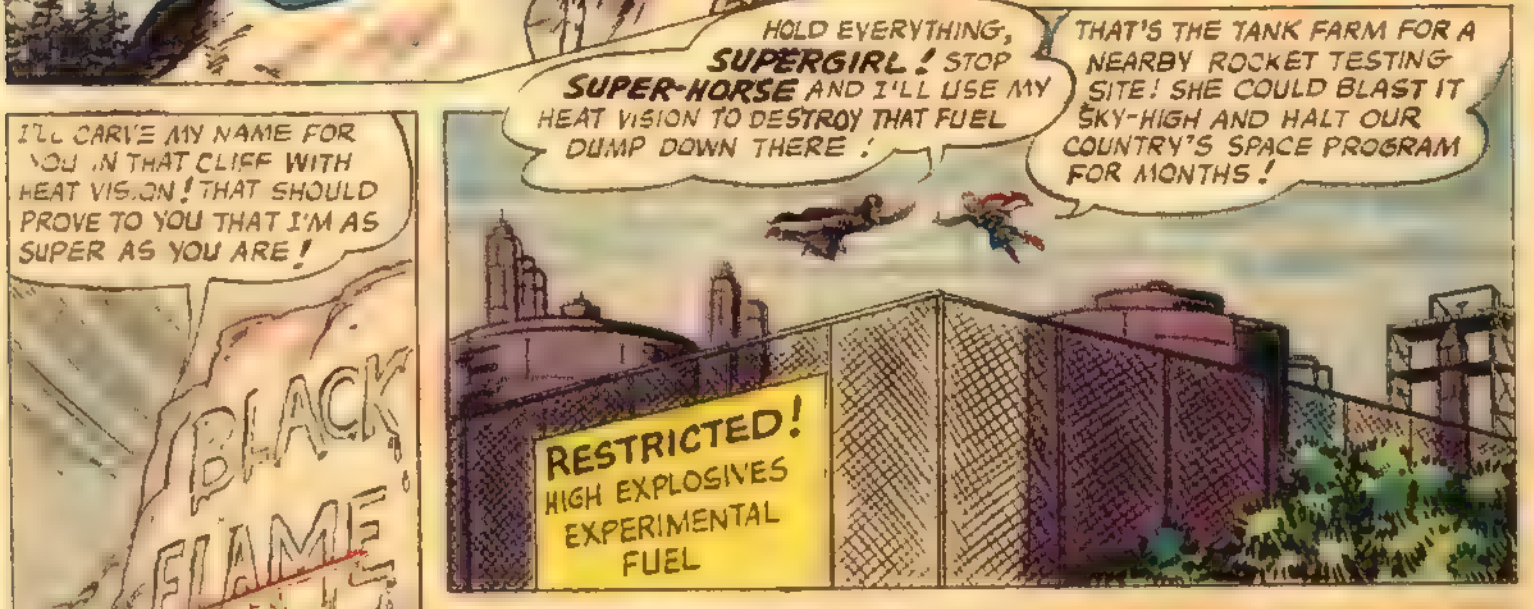

WHERE DOES SHE COME FROM? I'LL FOLLOW HER WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION AND FIND OUT!...GOOD GRIEF! SHE'S VANISHING THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER AT SUPER-SPEED! I CAN'T TRACK HER NOW!
1940
1925
1950
60
19

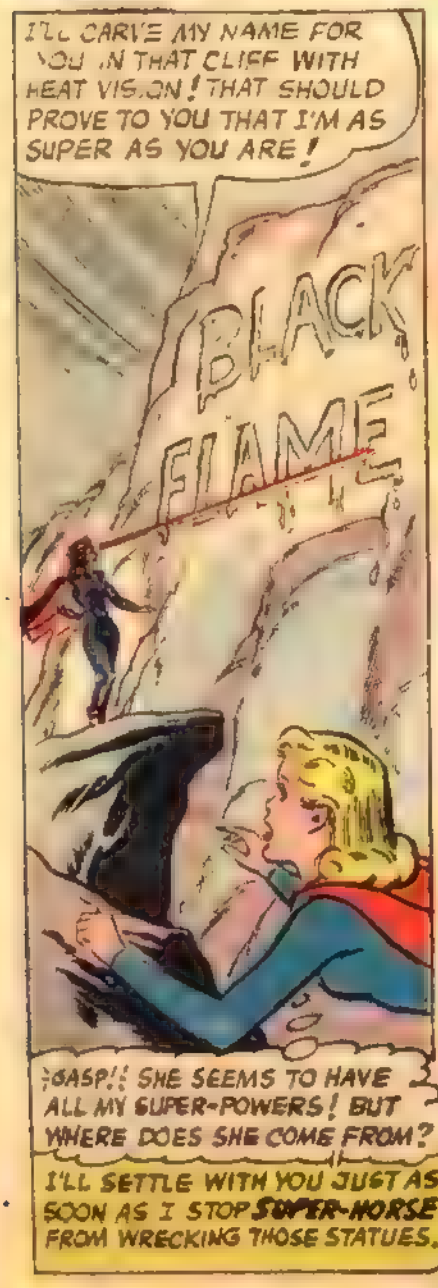

LATER, AT THE DANVERS' HOME, AS LINDA AND HER FOSTER-PARENTS WATCH THE T.V. NEWSCAST...
AND HERE IS A CLOSE-UP OF THE SUPER-MENACE WHO HELPED THE GAMBLERS ESCAPE! THESE FILMS WERE TAKEN BY THE COAST GUARD WHILE THEY WAITED IN VAIN FOR SUPERGIRL!
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, DEAR! YOU DID YOUR BEST! YOU'LL BE READY FOR HER NEXT TIME SHE APPEARS!

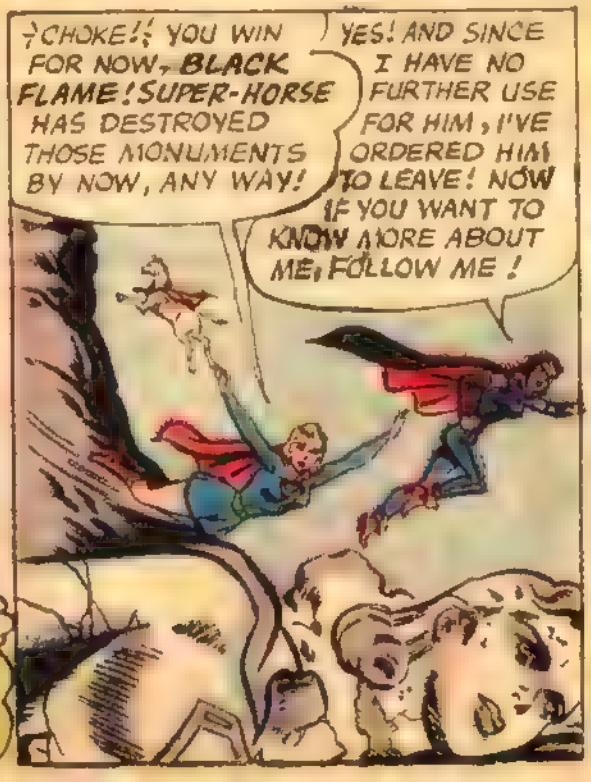

BUT JUST THEN...
AND HERE'S A FLASH JUST IN! COMET, THE SUPER-HORSE, HAS GONE BERSERK! HE IS DESTROYING MONUMENT MOUNTAIN IN GOLD STONE NATIONAL PARK!
OH, NO! AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE! I'LL HAVE TO SWITCH TO SUPERGIRL AND CHECK ON THIS AT ONCE!

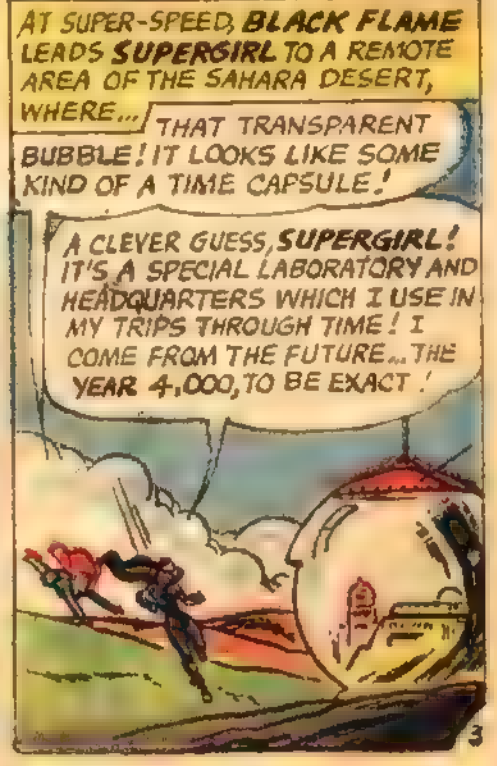

AT FANTASTIC SPEED, SUPERGIRL FLASHES TO MONUMENT MOUNTAIN, WHERE THE NATIONS' HEROES ARE IMMORTALIZED IN STONE...
GREAT KRYPTON! MY FRIEND COMET IS DESTROYING ALL THOSE MONUMENTS! WHAT'S COME OVER HIM?
SUPERGIRL! I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR MY THOUGHTS TELE-PATHICALLY! I CAN'T STOP! I HAVE ORDERS TO CRUSH THESE STATUES TO RUBBLE!
COMET! HAVE YOU GONE MAD? STOP THAT DESTRUCTION AT ONCE!


AT THAT MOMENT... SUPER-HORSE IS RIGHT! HE'S UNDER THE CONTROL OF MY BRAIN COMMAND RING WHICH IS TUNED TO HIS BRAIN FREQUENCIES! I'VE ORDERED HIM TO BREAK UP THOSE STATUES!
IT'S THAT FLYING FEMALE MENACE!
WHO ARE YOU?

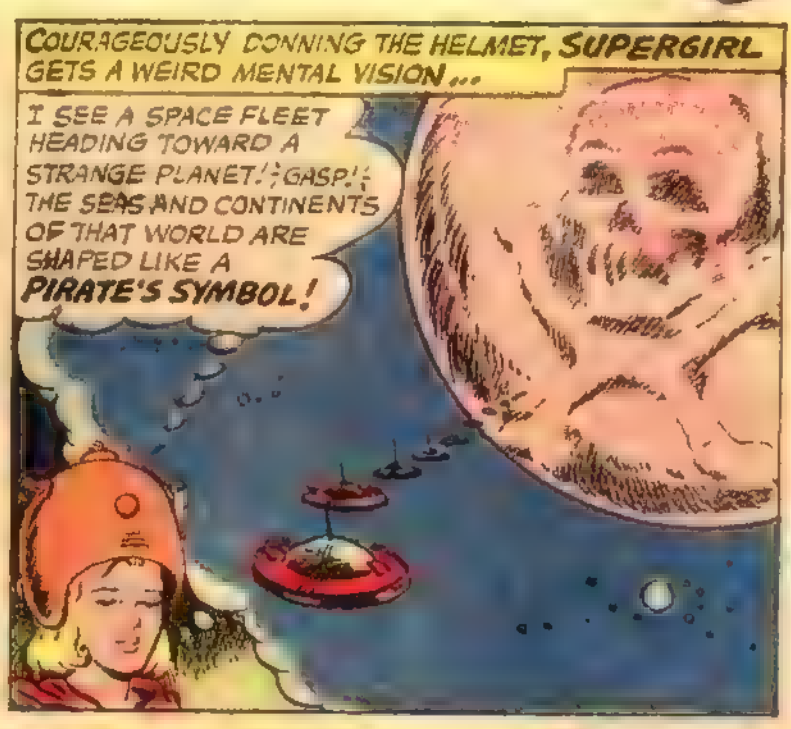

HOLD EVERYTHING, SUPERGIRL! STOP SUPER-HORSE AND I'LL USE MY HEAT VISION TO DESTROY THAT FUEL DUMP DOWN THERE!
THAT'S THE TANK FARM FOR A NEARBY ROCKET TESTING SITE! SHE COULD BLAST IT SKY-HIGH AND HALT OUR COUNTRY'S SPACE PROGRAM FOR MONTHS!
RESTRICTED! HIGH EXPLOSIVES EXPERIMENTAL FUEL

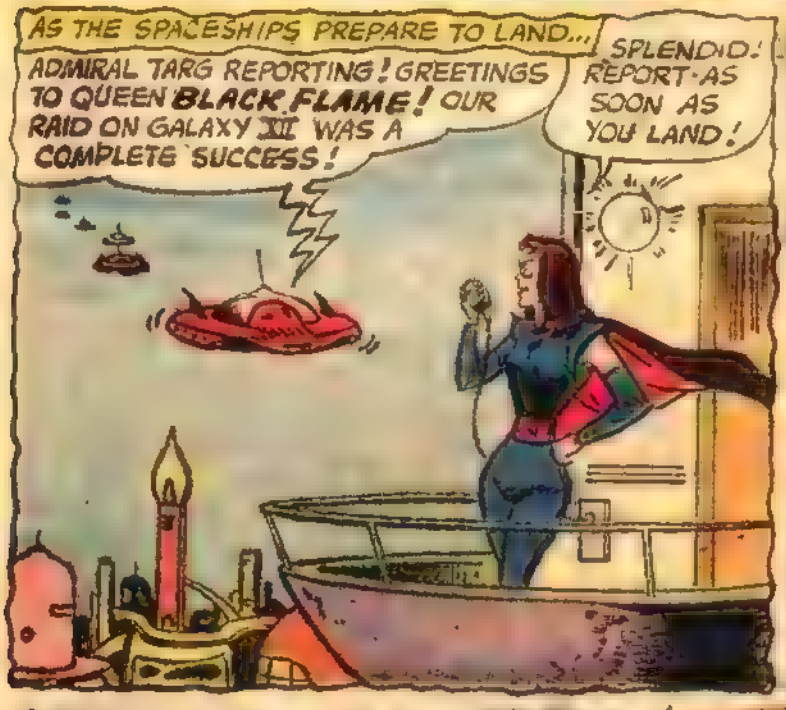

I'LL CARVE MY NAME FOR YOU IN THAT CLIFF WITH HEAT VISION! THAT SHOULD PROVE TO YOU THAT I'M AS SUPER AS YOU ARE!
BLACK FLAME
GASP!! SHE SEEMS TO HAVE ALL MY SUPER-POWERS! BUT WHERE DOES SHE COME FROM?
I'LL SETTLE WITH YOU JUST AS SOON AS I STOP SUPER-HORSE FROM WRECKING THOSE STATUES!

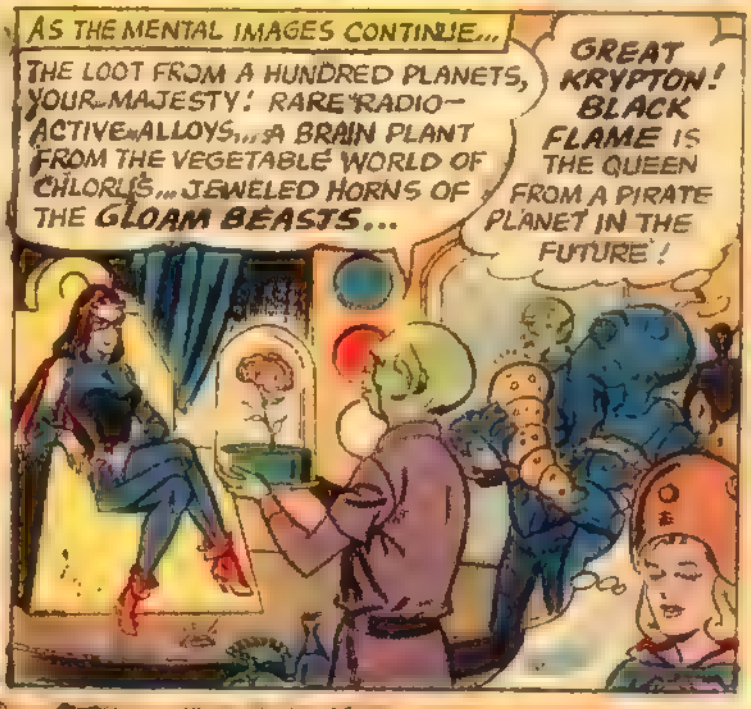

CHOKE!! YOU WIN FOR NOW, BLACK FLAME! SUPER-HORSE HAS DESTROYED THOSE MONUMENTS BY NOW, ANY WAY!
YES! AND SINCE I HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR HIM, I'VE ORDERED HIM TO LEAVE! NOW IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME, FOLLOW ME!


AT SUPER-SPEED, BLACK FLAME LEADS SUPERGIRL TO A REMOTE AREA OF THE SAHARA DESERT, WHERE...
THAT TRANSPARENT BUBBLE! IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF A TIME CAPSULE!
A CLEVER GUESS, SUPERGIRL! IT'S A SPECIAL LABORATORY AND HEADQUARTERS WHICH I USE IN MY TRIPS THROUGH TIME! I COME FROM THE FUTURE... THE YEAR 4,000, TO BE EXACT!

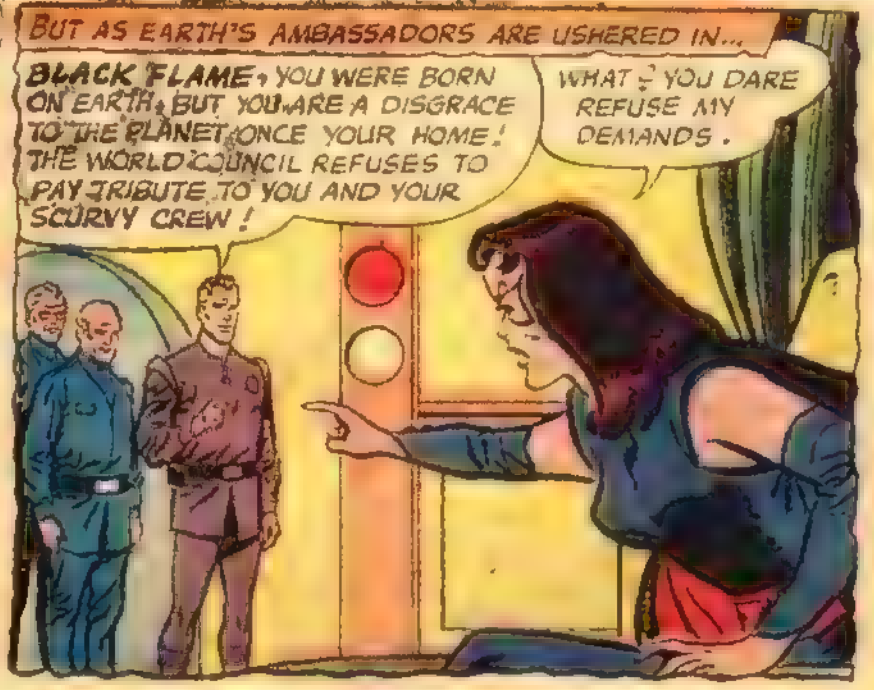
THAT DEVICE YOU SEE IS A MENTO-DOME WHICH CONTAINS THE RECORDED SECRET OF MY ORIGIN! PUT ON THAT DOME AND YOUR MIND WILL SEE EVENTS IN THE FUTURE WHICH WILL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT ME!
IT COULD BE A TRAP! BUT I MUST TAKE THE CHANCE AND PUT IT ON! IF I'M TO FIGHT THIS CHARACTER, I MUST KNOW ALL ABOUT HER!


COURAGEOUSLY DONNING THE HELMET, SUPERGIRL GETS A WEIRD MENTAL VISION...
I SEE A SPACE FLEET HEADING TOWARD A STRANGE PLANET! GASP! THE SEAS AND CONTINENTS OF THAT WORLD ARE SHAPED LIKE A PIRATE'S SYMBOL!


AS THE SPACESHIPS PREPARE TO LAND...
ADMIRAL TARG REPORTING! GREETINGS TO QUEEN BLACK FLAME! OUR RAID ON GALAXY XII WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS!
SPLENDID! REPORT AS SOON AS YOU LAND!


AS THE MENTAL IMAGES CONTINUE...
THE LOOT FROM A HUNDRED PLANETS, YOUR MAJESTY! RARE RADIO-ACTIVE ALLOYS... A BRAIN PLANT FROM THE VEGETABLE WORLD OF CHLORIS... JEWELED HORNS OF THE GLOAM BEASTS...
GREAT KRYPTON! BLACK FLAME IS THE QUEEN FROM A PIRATE PLANET IN THE FUTURE!

MY SUBJECTS, I HAVE CHOSEN YOU FROM THE MOST EVIL CRIMINALS AND OUTCASTS OF THE UNIVERSE! THE SUPER-WEAPONS I DESIGNED FOR YOU HAVE BROUGHT US UNTOLD WEALTH! NOW, FOR OUR GREATEST TRIUMPH! YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE ME HUMBLE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EARTH -- THE PLANET THAT EXILED ME YEARS AGO!
4


BUT AS EARTH'S AMBASSADORS ARE USHERED IN...
BLACK FLAME, YOU WERE BORN ON EARTH, BUT YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THE PLANET ONCE YOUR HOME! THE WORLD COUNCIL REFUSES TO PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU AND YOUR SCURVY CREW!
WHAT? YOU DARE REFUSE MY DEMANDS.

AS THE EVIL QUEEN SNAPS OUT ORDERS...

START THE GENERATORS ON THE COSMO-TRONIC CANNON!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY!

SECONDS LATER, A COSMIC BOLT OF ENERGY SLICES OFF PART OF A NEARBY UNINHABITED MOON...

ZAAAPP

STUNNED, THE EARTH DELEGATION WATCHES ON A MONITOR...

OUR COSMO-TRONIC CANNON CUT THROUGH THAT MOON LIKE A PIECE OF CHEESE! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO EARTH UNLESS YOU PAY THE TRIBUTE I ASK!

IT'S PIRACY! BUT WE'LL HAVE TO PAY IT! AND TO THINK **BLACK FLAME** IS **SUPERGIRL XXV**--AND THAT HER ANCESTOR WAS THE BELOVED **SUPERGIRL I**, FROM ARGO CITY!

AS **SUPERGIRL** RECEIVES MORE MENTAL VISIONS...

AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO BE LOOTING YOUR HOME PLANET--YOU, WHO ARE A DESCENDANT OF THE ORIGINAL **SUPERGIRL** FROM 1963?

BAH! I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT THAT NAMBY-PAMBY DO-GOODER!

RAGE GRIPS THE CROWD AS THE PIRATE FLEET DEPARTS...

IF NOT FOR **SUPERGIRL** THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PIRATE QUEEN!

YES! HER EVIL DESCENDANT INHERITED HER SUPER-POWERS! TEAR DOWN **SUPERGIRL**'S STATUE!

UPERGI

AS THE SCENE FADES, **SUPERGIRL** REMOVES THE **MENTO-DOME**...

THEN YOU, **BLACK FLAME**, ARE MY DESCENDANT... A COLD-HEARTED FEMALE DESPERADO!--CHOKE!--WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY TIME ERA?

MY GREEDY HENCHMEN REVOLTED AND USED SOME OF MY SUPER-WEAPONS AGAINST ME! SO I'M HIDING IN THIS CENTURY TILL I REGAIN MY THRONE!

HA, HA! HOW DO YOU LIKE BEING THE ANCESTOR OF THE FUTURE'S GREATEST CRIMINAL? REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T CHANGE HISTORY! AND IF YOU TRY ANY TRICKS, I'LL REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY AS LINDA DANVERS AND **SUPERMAN'S** OTHER IDENTITY AS CLARK KENT!

:GROAN!: THIS IS HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE! I CAN'T FACE HER! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

SWIFTLY **SUPERGIRL** HASTENS HOME TO HER FOSTER-MOTHER, MRS. DANVERS...

AND TO THINK THAT I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR HER EXISTENCE! :SOB!: A **STONE-HEARTED** DEMON IN HUMAN FORM! :CHOKE!: ALL THE GOOD I'LL EVER DO WILL BE WASTED! IN THE YEAR 4,000, ALL PEOPLE OF EARTH WILL **HATE** ME!

THERE, THERE MY DEAR! DON'T BLAME YOURSELF!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, **BLACK FLAME** IS WATCHING WITH HER TELESCOPIC VISION...

HA, HA! I WONDER WHAT **SUPERGIRL** WOULD SAY IF SHE KNEW WHO I **REALLY** WAS AND WHERE I ACTUALLY COME FROM!

PRESENTLY... **SUPERGIRL**, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO TAKE THIS LYING DOWN! WHY NOT TAKE A TIME-TRIP INTO THE FUTURE TO CHECK ON THIS **BLACK FLAME'S** STORY?

A SPLENDID IDEA, MOTHER! IF I CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HER, PERHAPS I'LL DISCOVER SOME WAY TO COMBAT MY EVIL DESCENDANT!

SECONDS LATER, THE MIGHTY **MAID OF STEEL** STREAKS THROUGH THE TIME BARRIER...

BLACK FLAME SAID SHE CAME FROM THE YEAR 4,000 A.D. AND THIS IS IT! HM! THAT'S **STRANGE**! THEY STILL HONOR ME IN THIS CENTURY! IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT GIANT GOLD STATUE IS ERECTED IN MY MEMORY!

198

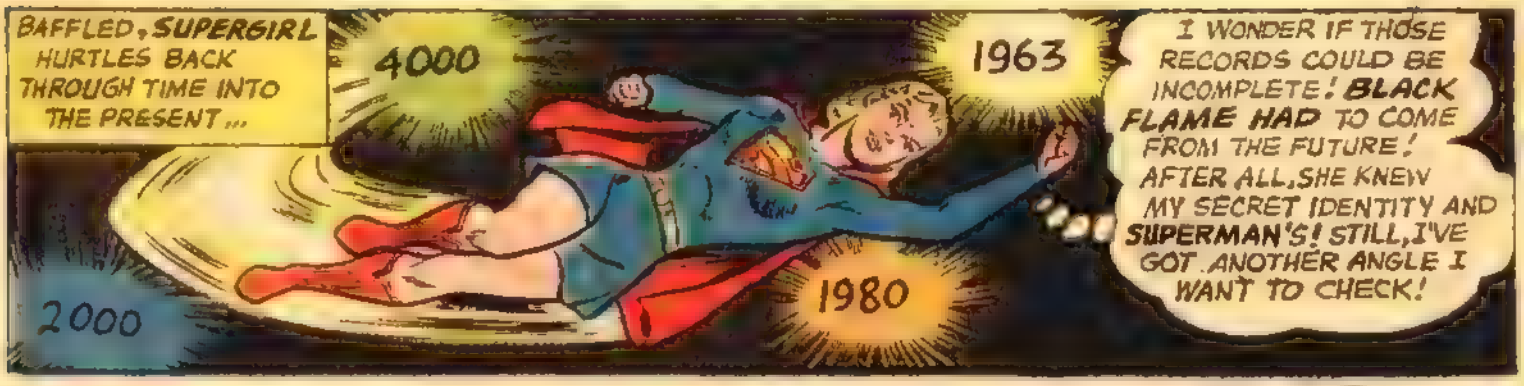
200

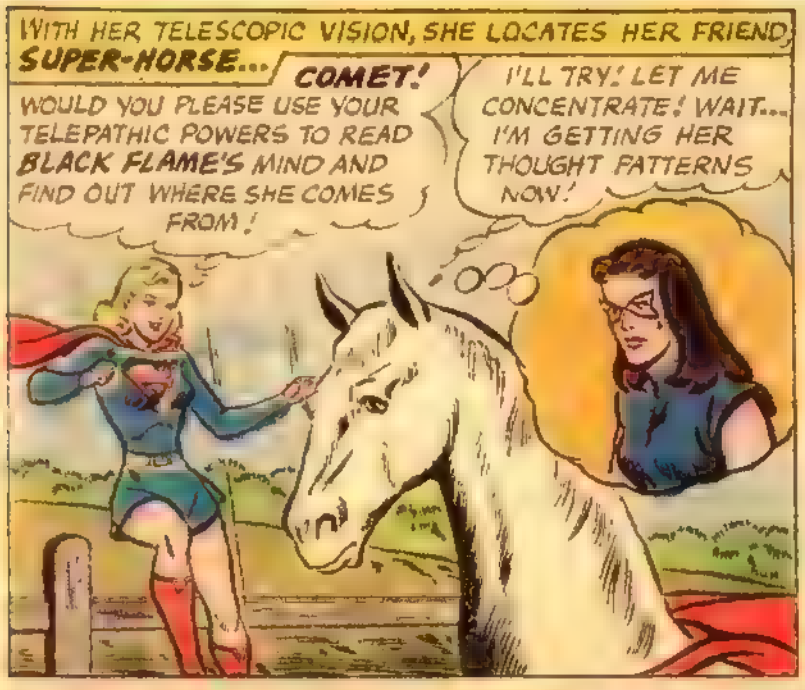
4000

SOON, IN A PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE...

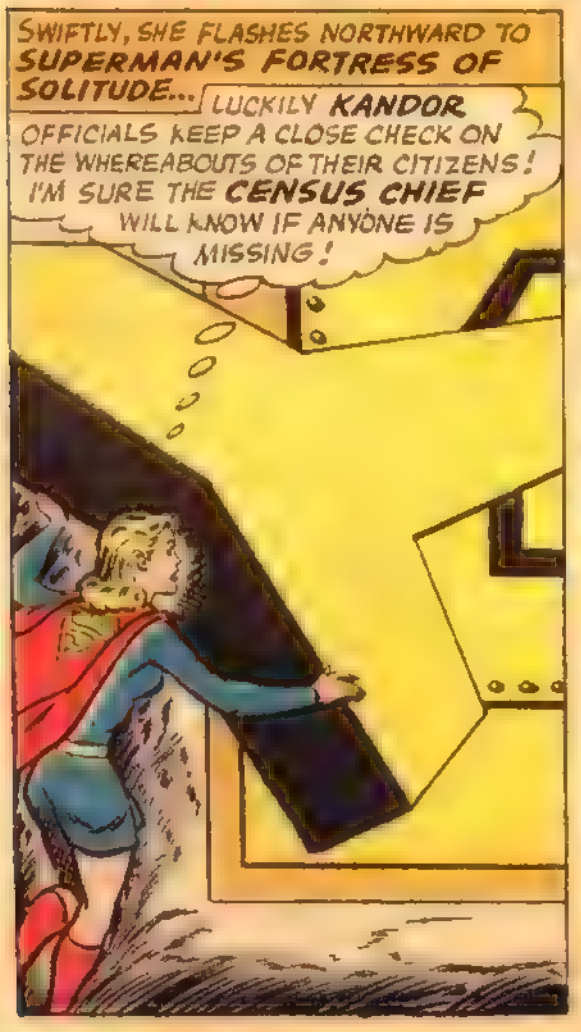
I'M CHECKING THESE PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL RECORDS BY USING MY MICROSCOPIC VISION AT SUPER-SPEED! THERE'S NO MENTION OF ANY CRIMINAL CALLED **BLACK FLAME**! THAT'S ODD!

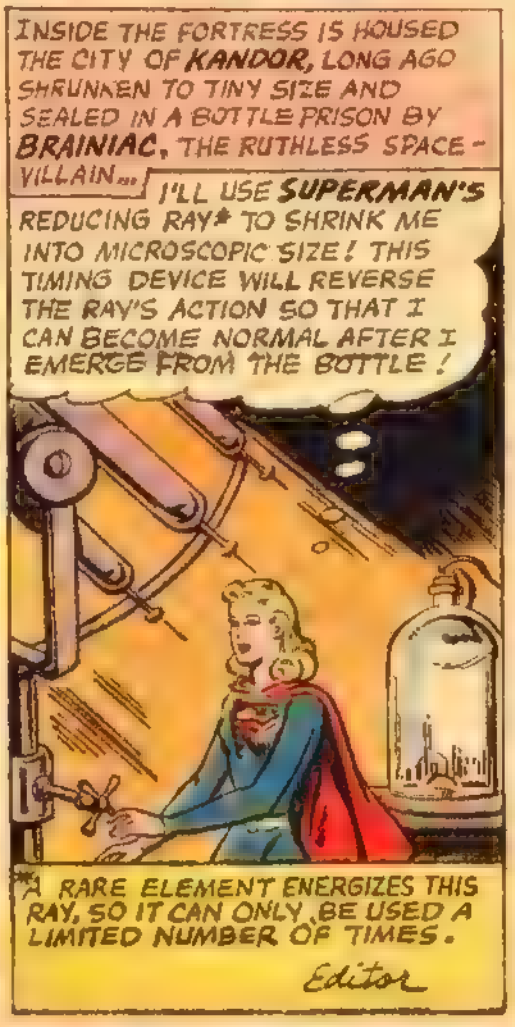
HISTORY

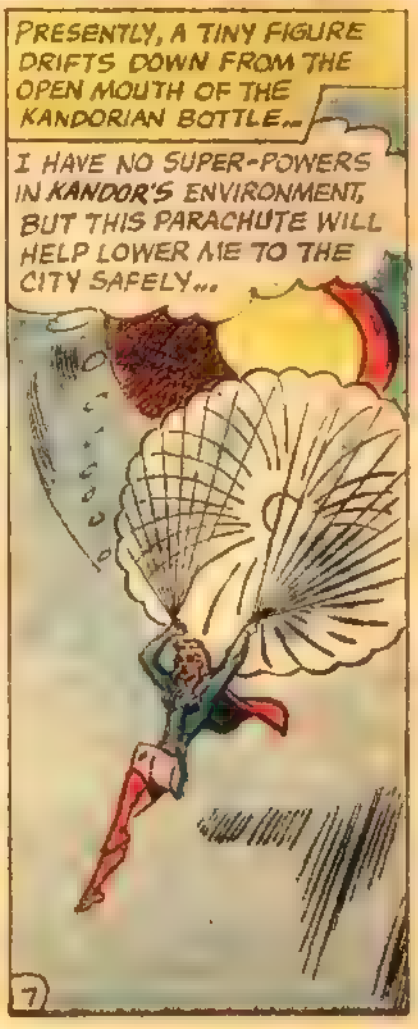

BAFFLED, SUPERGIRL HURTLES BACK THROUGH TIME INTO THE PRESENT...
4000
1963
1980
2000
I WONDER IF THOSE RECORDS COULD BE INCOMPLETE! BLACK FLAME HAD TO COME FROM THE FUTURE! AFTER ALL, SHE KNEW MY SECRET IDENTITY AND SUPERMAN'S! STILL, I'VE GOT ANOTHER ANGLE I WANT TO CHECK!

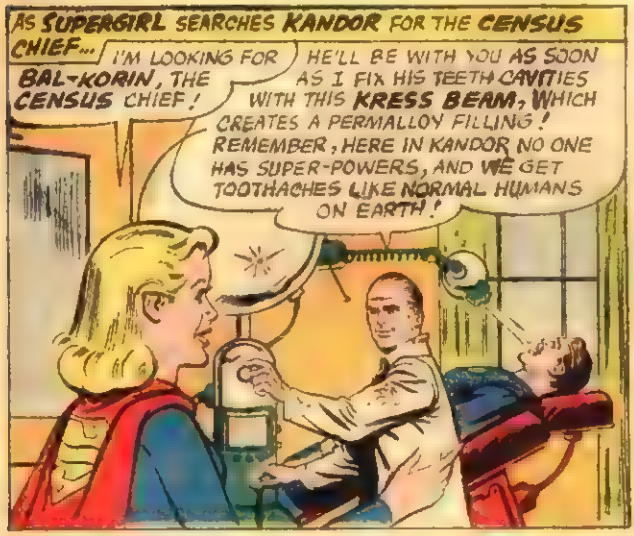

WITH HER TELESCOPIC VISION, SHE LOCATES HER FRIEND, SUPER-HORSE...
COMET! WOULD YOU PLEASE USE YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS TO READ BLACK FLAME'S MIND AND FIND OUT WHERE SHE COMES FROM!
I'LL TRY! LET ME CONCENTRATE! WAIT... I'M GETTING HER THOUGHT PATTERNS NOW!

NOW I'M GETTING AN IMPRESSION FROM HER THOUGHT WAVES! I SEE A PICTURE OF THE BOTTLE CITY OF KANDOR!
THAT COULD BE IT! YES, BLACK FLAME MIGHT BE FROM KANDOR! I'LL CHECK AT ONCE!

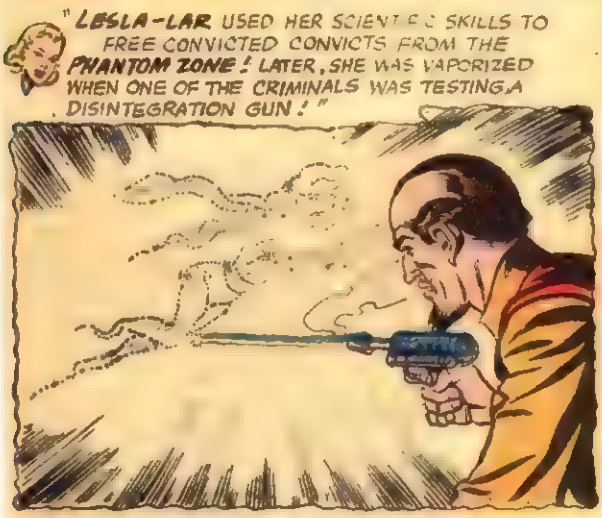

SWIFTLY, SHE FLASHES NORTHWARD TO SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
LUCKILY KANDOR OFFICIALS KEEP A CLOSE CHECK ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THEIR CITIZENS! I'M SURE THE CENSUS CHIEF WILL KNOW IF ANYONE IS MISSING!

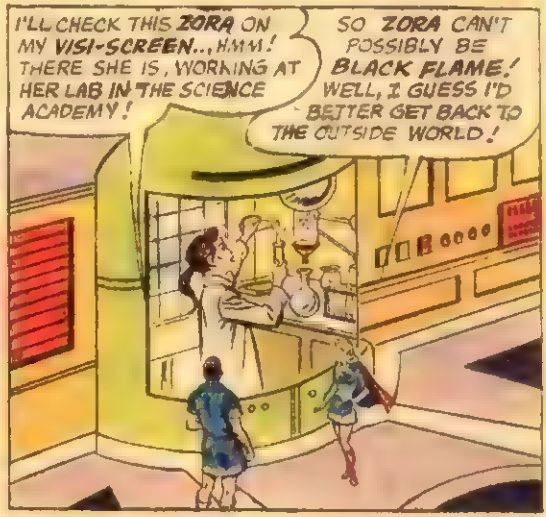

INSIDE THE FORTRESS IS HOUSED THE CITY OF KANDOR, LONG AGO SHRUNKEN TO TINY SIZE AND SEALED IN A BOTTLE PRISON BY BRAINIAC, THE RUTHLESS SPACE-VILLAIN...
I'LL USE SUPERMAN'S REDUCING RAY* TO SHRINK ME INTO MICROSCOPIC SIZE! THIS TIMING DEVICE WILL REVERSE THE RAY'S ACTION SO THAT I CAN BECOME NORMAL AFTER I EMERGE FROM THE BOTTLE!
*A RARE ELEMENT ENERGIZES THIS RAY, SO IT CAN ONLY BE USED A LIMITED NUMBER OF TIMES.
Editor

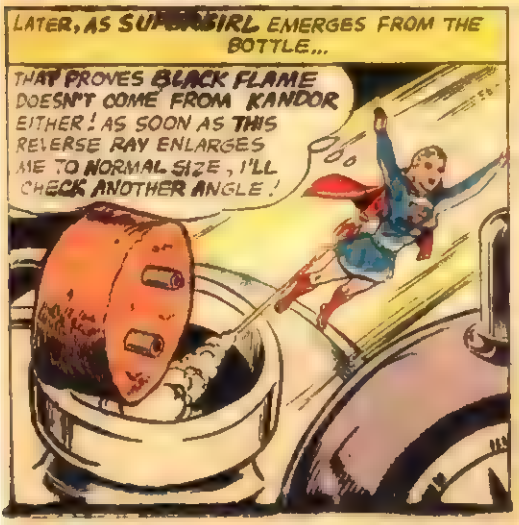

PRESENTLY, A TINY FIGURE DRIFTS DOWN FROM THE OPEN MOUTH OF THE KANDORIAN BOTTLE...
I HAVE NO SUPER-POWERS IN KANDOR'S ENVIRONMENT, BUT THIS PARACHUTE WILL HELP LOWER ME TO THE CITY SAFELY...

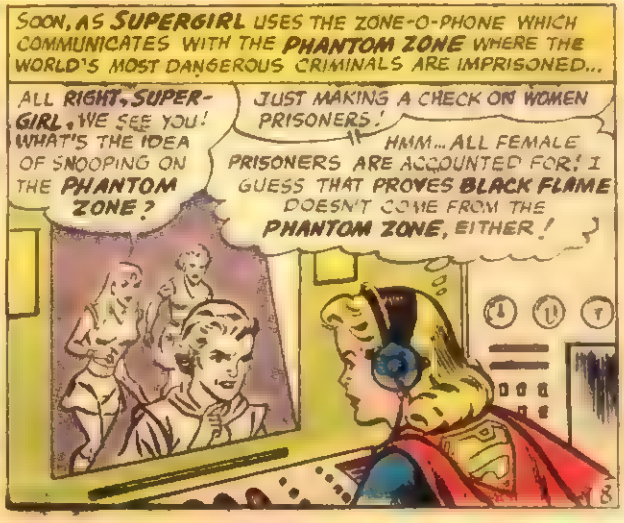

AS SUPERGIRL SEARCHES KANDOR FOR THE CENSUS CHIEF...
I'M LOOKING FOR BAL-KORIN, THE CENSUS CHIEF!
HE'LL BE WITH YOU AS SOON AS I FIX HIS TEETH CAVITIES WITH THIS KRESS BEAM, WHICH CREATES A PERMALLOY FILLING! REMEMBER, HERE IN KANDOR NO ONE HAS SUPER-POWERS, AND WE GET TOOTHACHES LIKE NORMAL HUMANS ON EARTH!

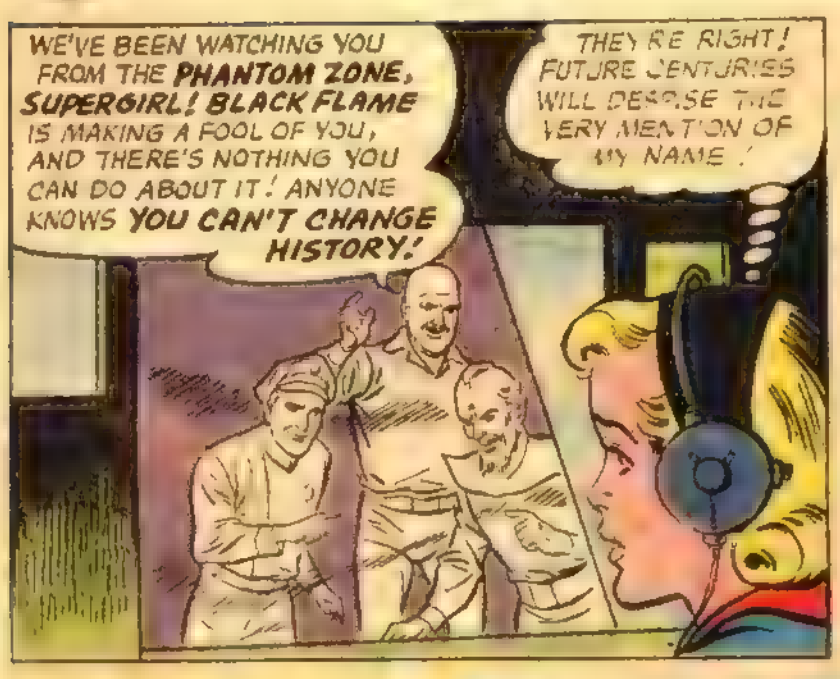
LATER, AT THE CONTROL CENTER OF KANDOR'S CENSUS BUREAU...
THERE IS ONE KANDORIAN WHO MIGHT FIT YOUR DESCRIPTION OF BLACK FLAME! IT'S ZORA, A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST WHO WAS A FRIEND OF LESLA-LAR!
LESLA-LAR! HMM! SHE WAS A CLEVER CRIMINAL SCIENTIST WHO ESCAPED FROM THE BOTTLE!
X Y Z


"LESLA-LAR USED HER SCIENTIFIC SKILLS TO FREE CONVICTED CONVICTS FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE! LATER, SHE WAS VAPORIZED WHEN ONE OF THE CRIMINALS WAS TESTING A DISINTEGRATION GUN!"

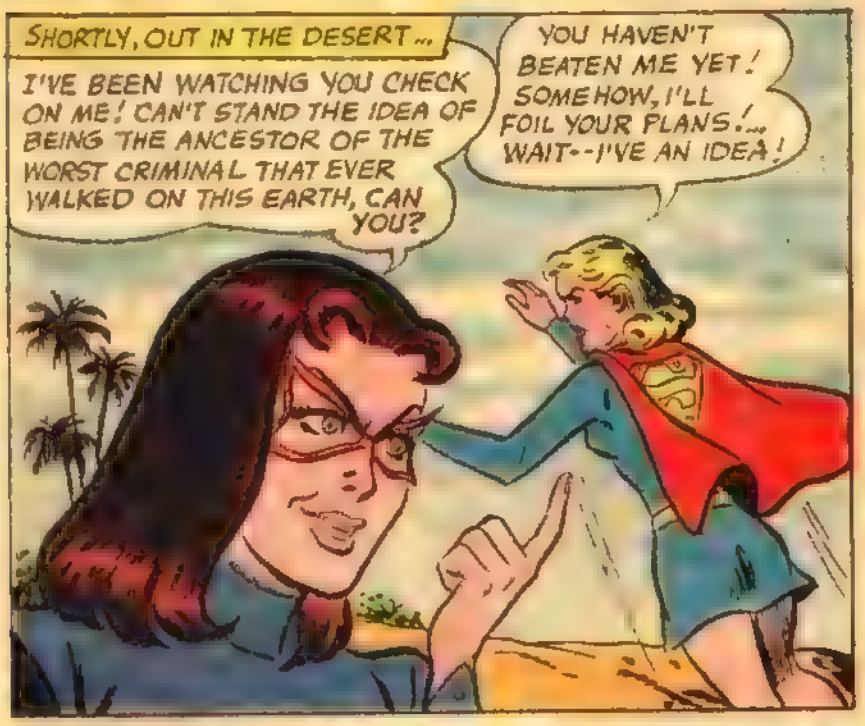

I'LL CHECK THIS ZORA ON MY VISI-SCREEN... HMM! THERE SHE IS, WORKING AT HER LAB IN THE SCIENCE ACADEMY!
SO ZORA CAN'T POSSIBLY BE BLACK FLAME! WELL, I GUESS I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

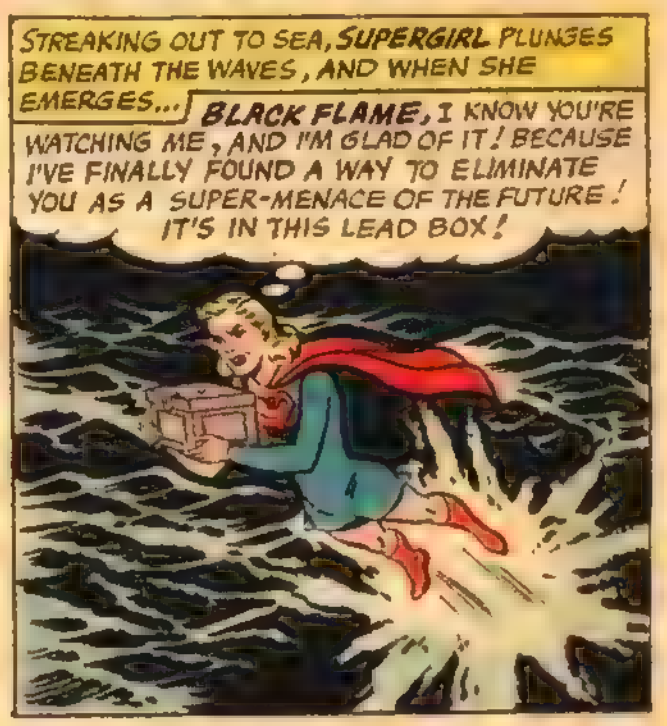

LATER, AS SUPERGIRL EMERGES FROM THE BOTTLE...
THAT PROVES BLACK FLAME DOESN'T COME FROM KANDOR EITHER! AS SOON AS THIS REVERSE RAY ENLARGES ME TO NORMAL SIZE, I'LL CHECK ANOTHER ANGLE!

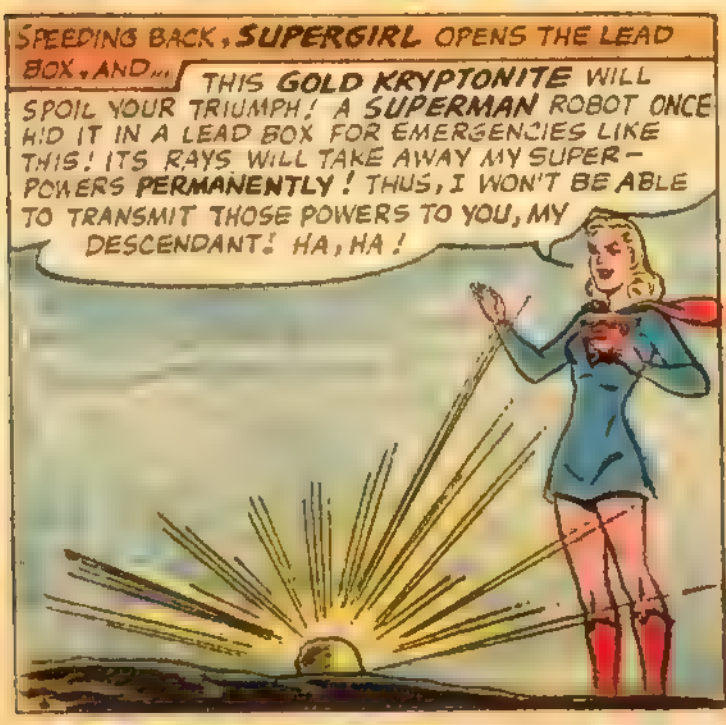

SOON, AS SUPERGIRL USES THE ZONE-O-PHONE WHICH COMMUNICATES WITH THE PHANTOM ZONE WHERE THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS ARE IMPRISONED...
ALL RIGHT, SUPERGIRL, WE SEE YOU! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF SNOOPING ON THE PHANTOM ZONE?
JUST MAKING A CHECK ON WOMEN PRISONERS!
HMM... ALL FEMALE PRISONERS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR! I GUESS THAT PROVES BLACK FLAME DOESN'T COME FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE, EITHER!

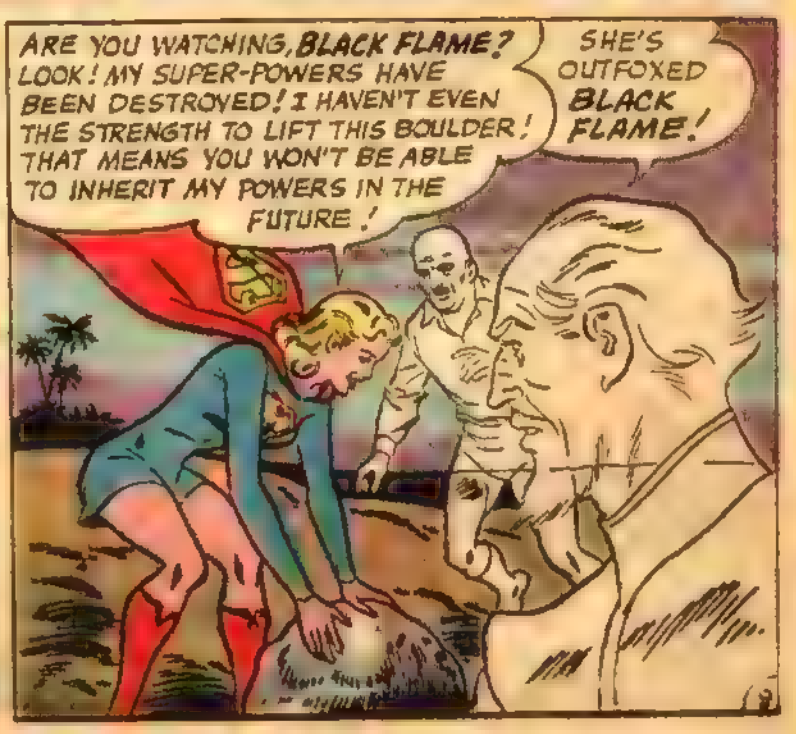

WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE, SUPERGIRL! BLACK FLAME IS MAKING A FOOL OF YOU, AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT! ANYONE KNOWS YOU CAN'T CHANGE HISTORY!
THEY'RE RIGHT! FUTURE CENTURIES WILL DESPISE THE VERY MENTION OF MY NAME!

BAFFLED, SUPERGIRL SPEEDS SOUTHWARD FROM THE FORTRESS...
COMET WAS WRONG! BLACK FLAME DIDN'T COME FROM KANDOR, OR FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE! ;GULP!; I'D BETTER CHECK ON THAT TROUBLEMAKER! SHE MAY HAVE PLANNED SOME OTHER EVIL DEED WHILE I WAS IN THE BOTTLE!


SHORTLY, OUT IN THE DESERT...
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU CHECK ON ME! CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF BEING THE ANCESTOR OF THE WORST CRIMINAL THAT EVER WALKED ON THIS EARTH, CAN YOU?
YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME YET! SOMEHOW, I'LL FOIL YOUR PLANS!... WAIT--I'VE AN IDEA!


STREAKING OUT TO SEA, SUPERGIRL PLUNGES BENEATH THE WAVES, AND WHEN SHE EMERGES...
BLACK FLAME, I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING ME, AND I'M GLAD OF IT! BECAUSE I'VE FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO ELIMINATE YOU AS A SUPER-MENACE OF THE FUTURE! IT'S IN THIS LEAD BOX!


SPEEDING BACK, SUPERGIRL OPENS THE LEAD BOX, AND...
THIS GOLD KRYPTONITE WILL SPOIL YOUR TRIUMPH! A SUPERMAN ROBOT ONCE HID IT IN A LEAD BOX FOR EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS! ITS RAYS WILL TAKE AWAY MY SUPER-POWERS PERMANENTLY! THUS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT THOSE POWERS TO YOU, MY DESCENDANT! HA, HA!


ARE YOU WATCHING, BLACK FLAME? LOOK! MY SUPER-POWERS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED! I HAVEN'T EVEN THE STRENGTH TO LIFT THIS BOULDER! THAT MEANS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO INHERIT MY POWERS IN THE FUTURE!
SHE'S OUTFOXED BLACK FLAME!

BUT SUPERGIRL SEEMS TO HAVE OUTSMARTED HERSELF TOO, FOR NOW...

;GASP!; WITH MY INVULNERABILITY GONE I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL WEAK AND SHAKY IN THIS HEAT! THE SAND IS SEARING MY FEET! MY THROAT IS PARCHED! ;CHOKE!; I'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WATER!

HA, HA!

AT THAT MOMENT, A SINISTER FIGURE SWOOPS DOWN...

SO YOU DESTROYED YOUR SUPER-POWERS WITH GOLD KRYPTONITE? GOOD! THAT'S JUST WHAT I HOPED YOU'D DO! I TRICKED YOU! I AM NOT YOUR DESCENDANT! I'M ZORA OF KANDOR!

;GASP!; THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I SAW ZORA IN KANDOR MYSELF, A SHORT TIME AGO!

"WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN ANDROID, A CHEMICAL DUPLICATE OF MYSELF. IT WAS ALL PART OF MY SCHEME..."

REMEMBER! YOU ARE TO TAKE MY PLACE AT THE SCIENCE ACADEMY AND CONTINUE ALL MY TECHNICAL PROJECTS!

I WILL OBEY, MISTRESS ZORA!

"I ALWAYS ADMIRED LESLA-LAR. WHEN SHE WAS DISINTEGRATED, I DECIDED TO FULFILL HER GREATEST AMBITION MYSELF--TO ESCAPE THE BOTTLE AND TAKE SUPERGIRL'S PLACE IN THE OUTER WORLD..."

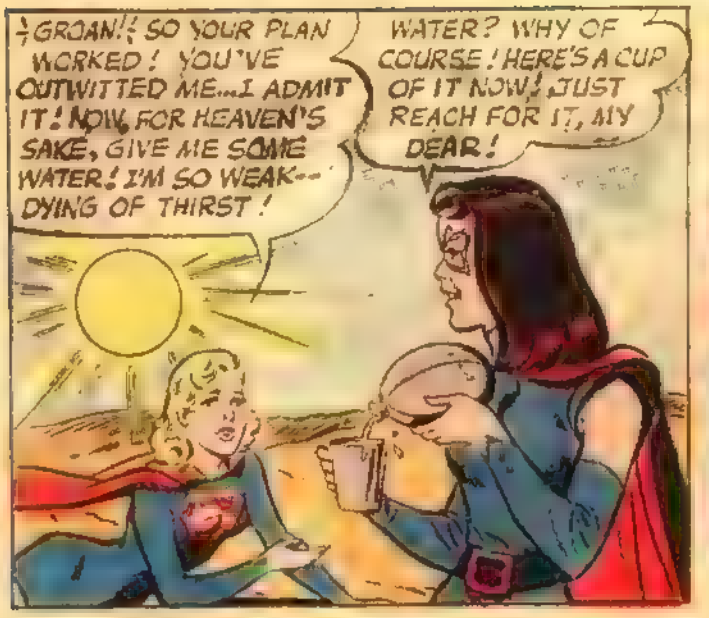
WITH THAT ANDROID TAKING MY PLACE, I WON'T BE MISSED! WHEN THIS JET TAKES ME UP TO THE CORK, I'LL FORCE MY WAY OUT OF THE BOTTLE WITH THIS PULSE-RAY GUN!

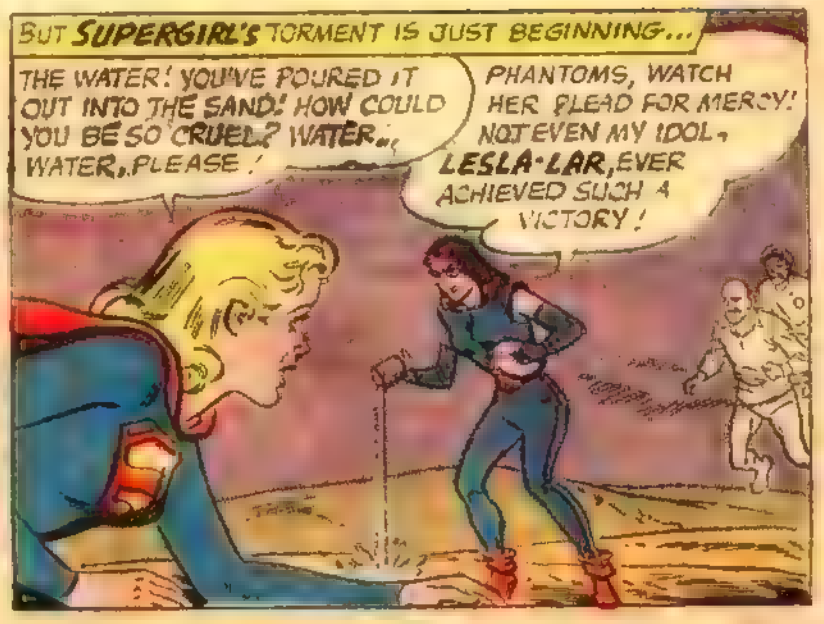
"IT WAS NECCESSARY TO BECOME A FULL-SIZED HUMAN IF I WAS TO MASQUERADE AS YOUR DESCENDANT. I REMEMBERED WATCHING ONE OF SUPERMAN'S ADVENTURES ON THE MONITOR..."

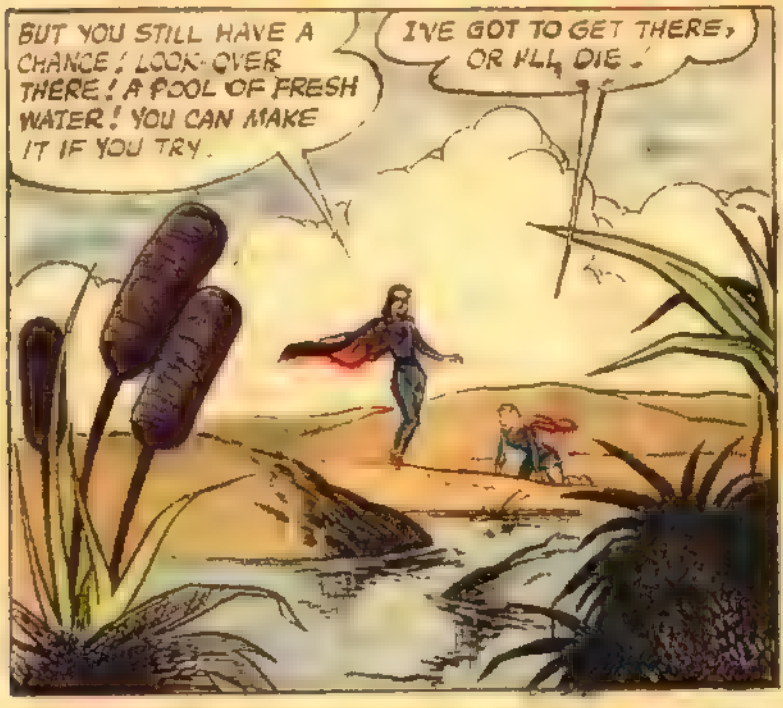
THAT RED-KRYPTONITE COSMIC CLOUD HAS THE PROPERTY OF CHANGING THE PHYSICAL FORM OF ANY SUPER-BEING THE WAY HE WISHES IT TO! SUPERMAN WANTED AN ANT'S HEAD, AND HIS WISH CAME TRUE WHEN HE FLEW THROUGH THIS CLOUD! THE EFFECT IS ALWAYS TEMPORARY!

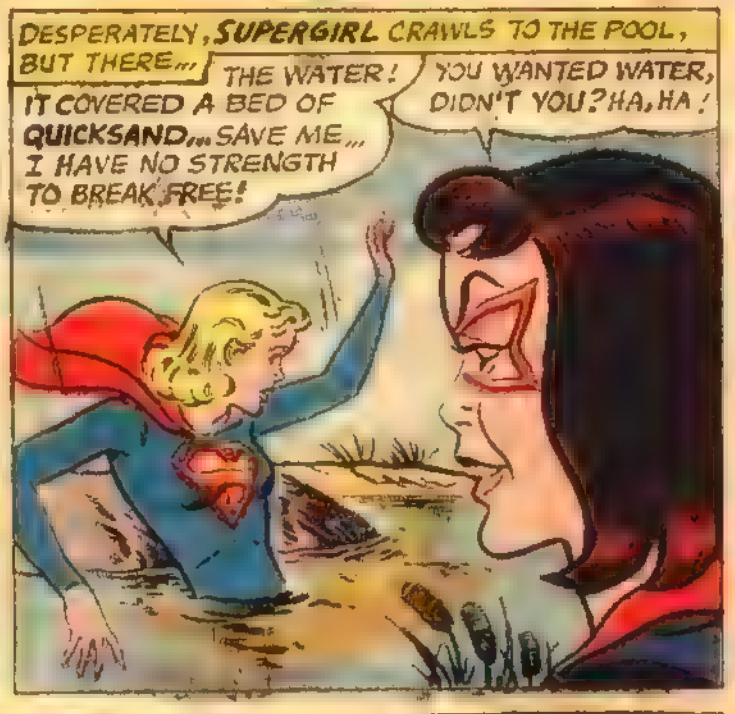
"AS SOON AS I EMERGED INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AND GAINED SUPER-POWERS, I STREAKED OFF INTO THAT COSMIC CLOUD..."

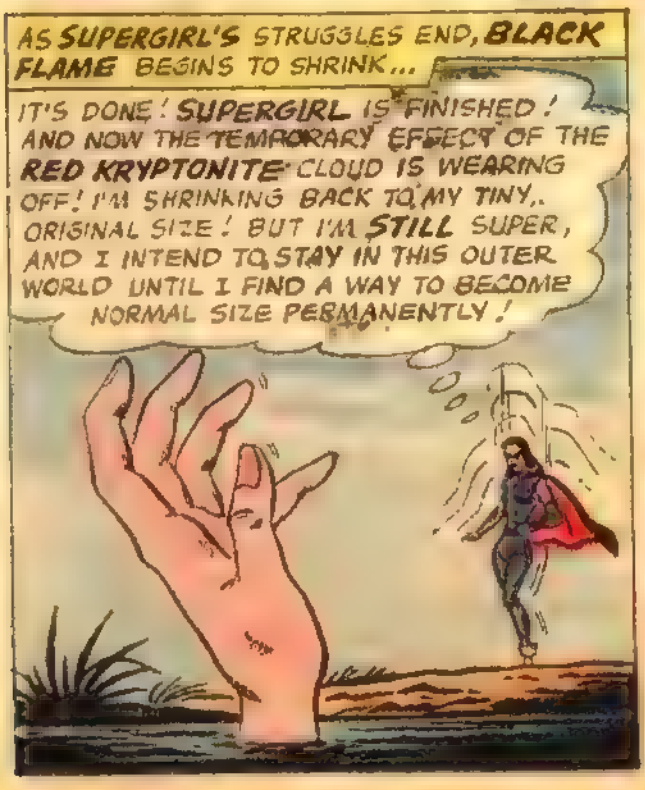
THE CLOUD WORKED FOR ME, TOO! I'M GROWING LARGER, INCREASING TO NORMAL, HUMAN SIZE! I'M READY TO BEGIN MY ROLE AS BLACK FLAME, SUPERGIRL'S "EVIL DESCENDANT" FROM THE "FUTURE"! FIRST I'LL MAKE A MENTO-DOME WHICH WILL CONTAIN PHONEY TAPES OF MY EXISTENCE IN THE YEAR 4,000 TO HOAX SUPERGIRL!

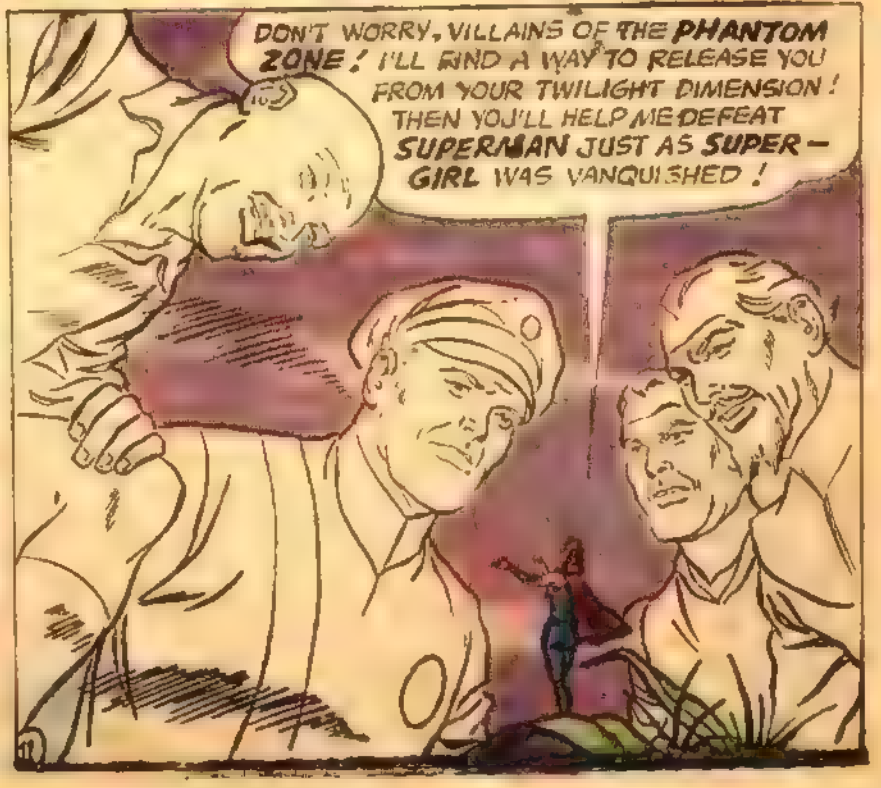

GROAN!! SO YOUR PLAN WORKED! YOU'VE OUTWITTED ME...I ADMIT IT! NOW, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, GIVE ME SOME WATER! I'M SO WEAK--DYING OF THIRST!
WATER? WHY OF COURSE! HERE'S A CUP OF IT NOW! JUST REACH FOR IT, MY DEAR!

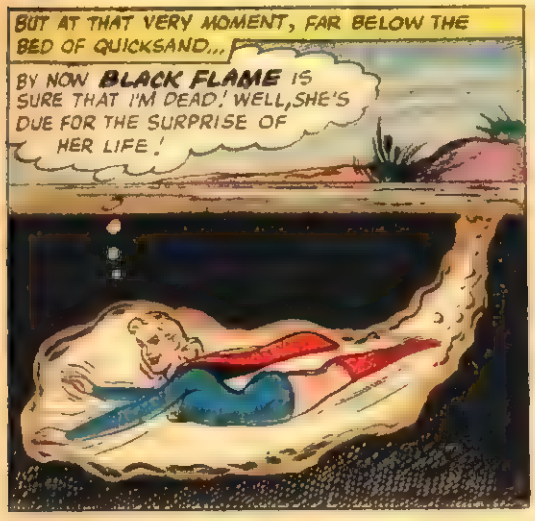

BUT SUPERGIRL'S TORMENT IS JUST BEGINNING...
THE WATER! YOU'VE POURED IT OUT INTO THE SAND! HOW COULD YOU BE SO CRUEL? WATER... WATER, PLEASE!
PHANTOMS, WATCH HER PLEAD FOR MERCY! NOT EVEN MY IDOL, LESLA-LAR, EVER ACHIEVED SUCH A VICTORY!

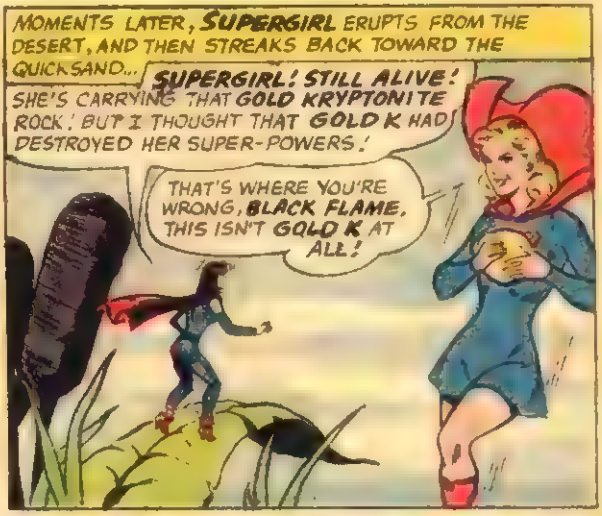

BUT YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE! LOOK OVER THERE! A POOL OF FRESH WATER! YOU CAN MAKE IT IF YOU TRY.
I'VE GOT TO GET THERE, OR I'LL DIE!

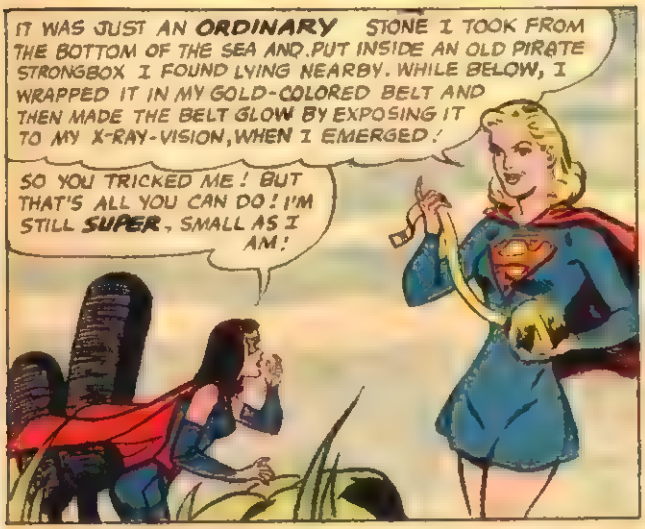

DESPERATELY, SUPERGIRL CRAWLS TO THE POOL, BUT THERE...
THE WATER! IT COVERED A BED OF QUICKSAND... SAVE ME... I HAVE NO STRENGTH TO BREAK FREE!
YOU WANTED WATER, DIDN'T YOU? HA, HA!

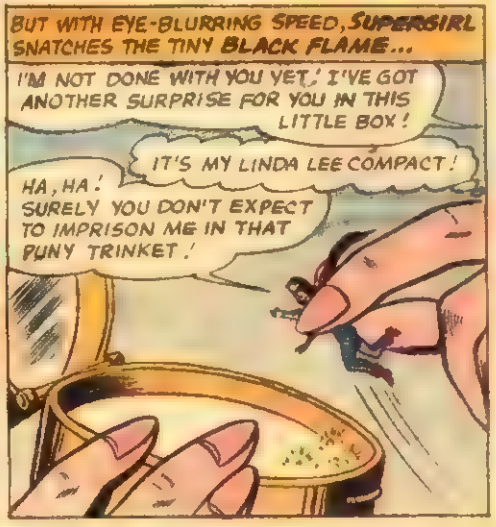

AS SUPERGIRL'S STRUGGLES END, BLACK FLAME BEGINS TO SHRINK...
IT'S DONE! SUPERGIRL IS FINISHED! AND NOW THE TEMPORARY EFFECT OF THE RED KRYPTONITE CLOUD IS WEARING OFF! I'M SHRINKING BACK TO MY TINY, ORIGINAL SIZE! BUT I'M STILL SUPER, AND I INTEND TO STAY IN THIS OUTER WORLD UNTIL I FIND A WAY TO BECOME NORMAL SIZE PERMANENTLY!

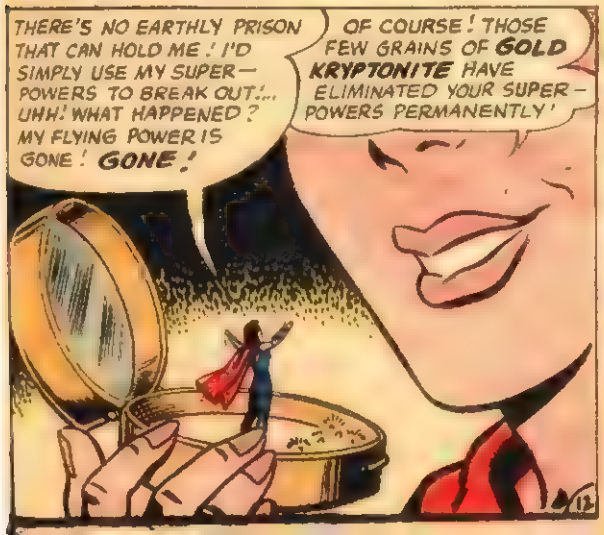

DON'T WORRY, VILLAINS OF THE PHANTOM ZONE! I'LL FIND A WAY TO RELEASE YOU FROM YOUR TWILIGHT DIMENSION! THEN YOU'LL HELP ME DEFEAT SUPERMAN JUST AS SUPER-GIRL WAS VANQUISHED!

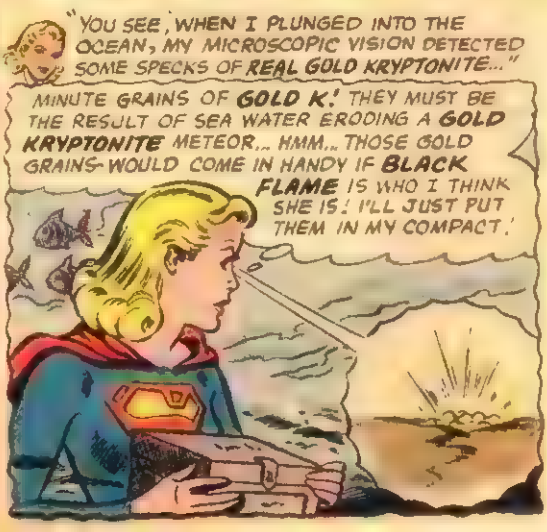

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, FAR BELOW THE BED OF QUICKSAND...
BY NOW BLACK FLAME IS SURE THAT I'M DEAD! WELL, SHE'S DUE FOR THE SURPRISE OF HER LIFE!

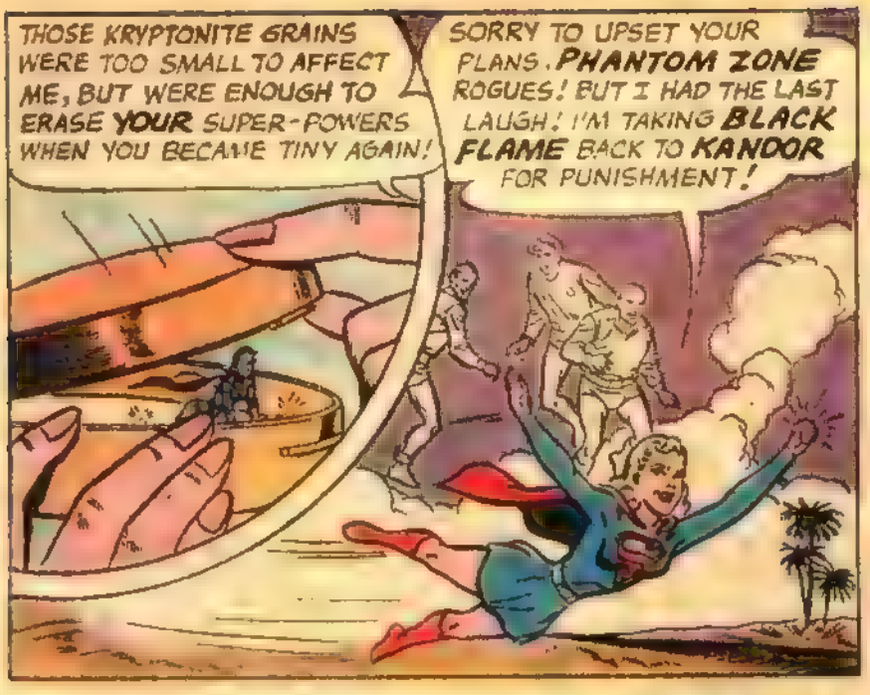

MOMENTS LATER, SUPERGIRL ERUPTS FROM THE DESERT, AND THEN STREAKS BACK TOWARD THE QUICKSAND...
SUPERGIRL! STILL ALIVE! SHE'S CARRYING THAT GOLD KRYPTONITE ROCK! BUT I THOUGHT THAT GOLD K HAD DESTROYED HER SUPER-POWERS!
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, BLACK FLAME, THIS ISN'T GOLD K AT ALL!

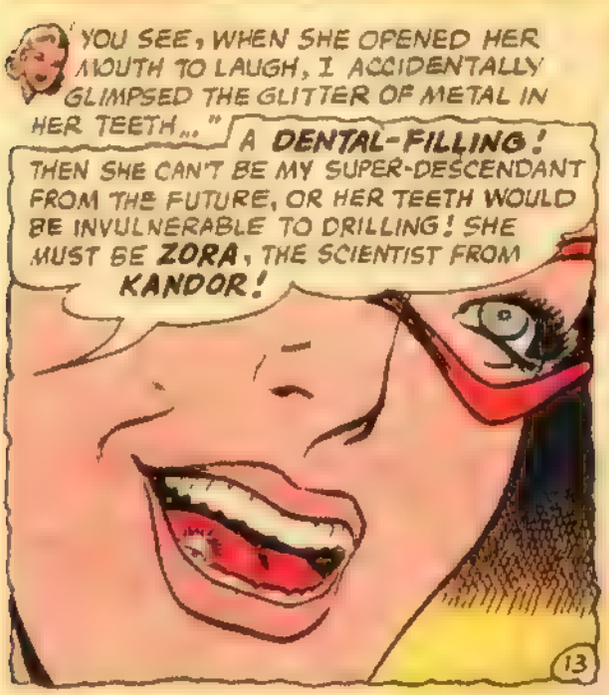

IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY STONE I TOOK FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA AND PUT INSIDE AN OLD PIRATE STRONGBOX I FOUND LYING NEARBY. WHILE BELOW, I WRAPPED IT IN MY GOLD-COLORED BELT AND THEN MADE THE BELT GLOW BY EXPOSING IT TO MY X-RAY-VISION, WHEN I EMERGED!
SO YOU TRICKED ME! BUT THAT'S ALL YOU CAN DO! I'M STILL SUPER, SMALL AS I AM!

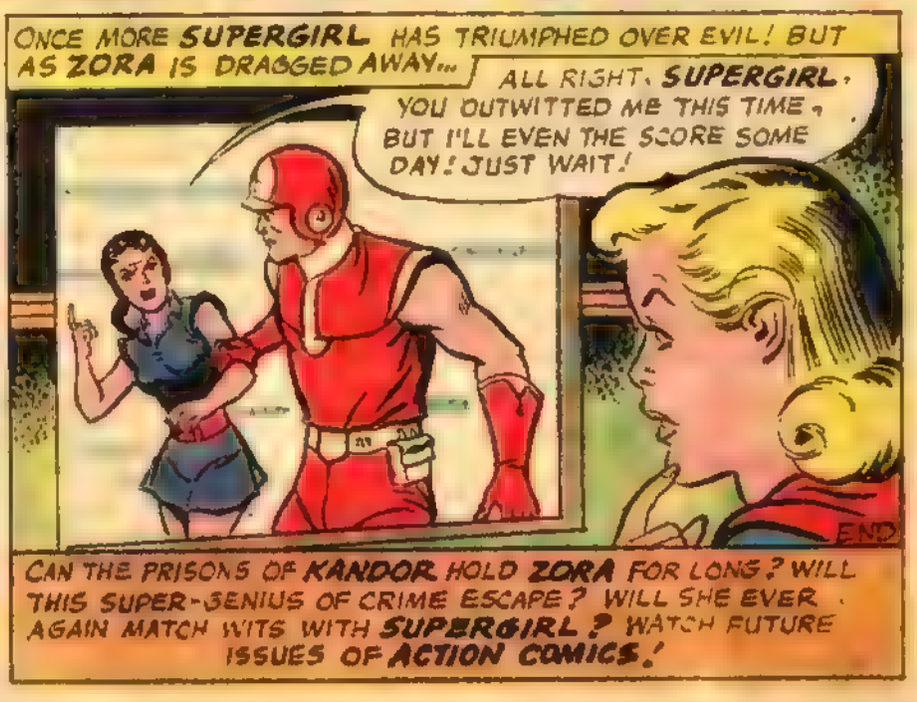

BUT WITH EYE-BLURRING SPEED, SUPERGIRL SNATCHES THE TINY BLACK FLAME...
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET! I'VE GOT ANOTHER SURPRISE FOR YOU IN THIS LITTLE BOX!
IT'S MY LINDA LEE COMPACT!
HA, HA! SURELY YOU DON'T EXPECT TO IMPRISON ME IN THAT PUNY TRINKET!


THERE'S NO EARTHLY PRISON THAT CAN HOLD ME! I'D SIMPLY USE MY SUPER-POWERS TO BREAK OUT!... UHH! WHAT HAPPENED? MY FLYING POWER IS GONE! GONE!
OF COURSE! THOSE FEW GRAINS OF GOLD KRYPTONITE HAVE ELIMINATED YOUR SUPER-POWERS PERMANENTLY!
12


"YOU SEE, WHEN I PLUNGED INTO THE OCEAN, MY MICROSCOPIC VISION DETECTED SOME SPECKS OF REAL GOLD KRYPTONITE..."
MINUTE GRAINS OF GOLD K! THEY MUST BE THE RESULT OF SEA WATER ERODING A GOLD KRYPTONITE METEOR... HMM... THOSE GOLD GRAINS WOULD COME IN HANDY IF BLACK FLAME IS WHO I THINK SHE IS! I'LL JUST PUT THEM IN MY COMPACT.







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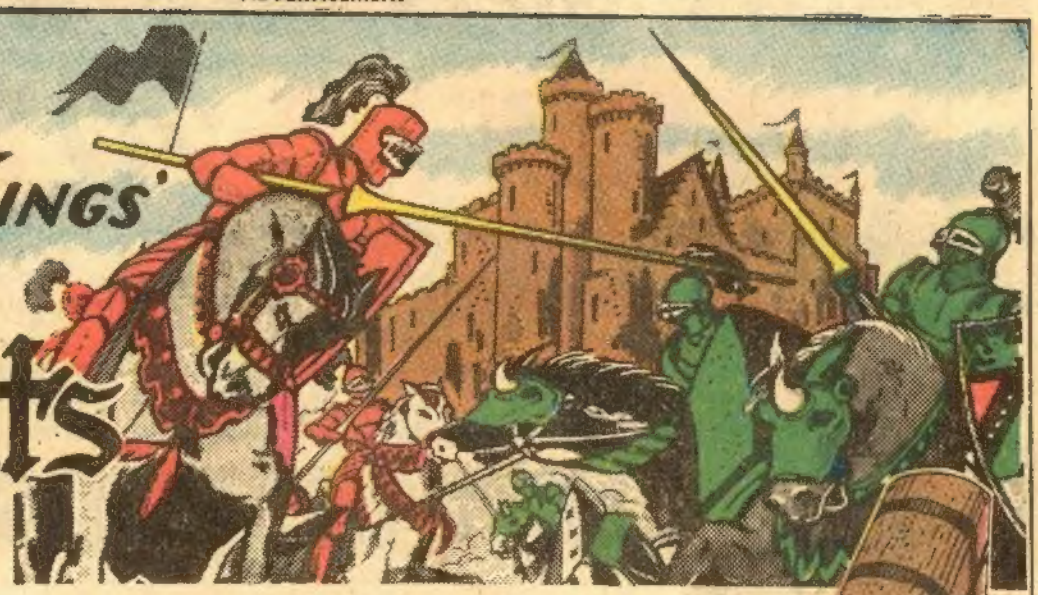

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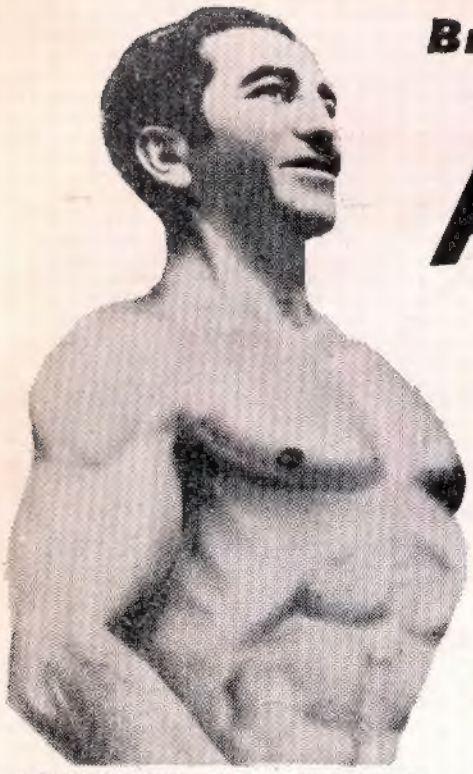

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